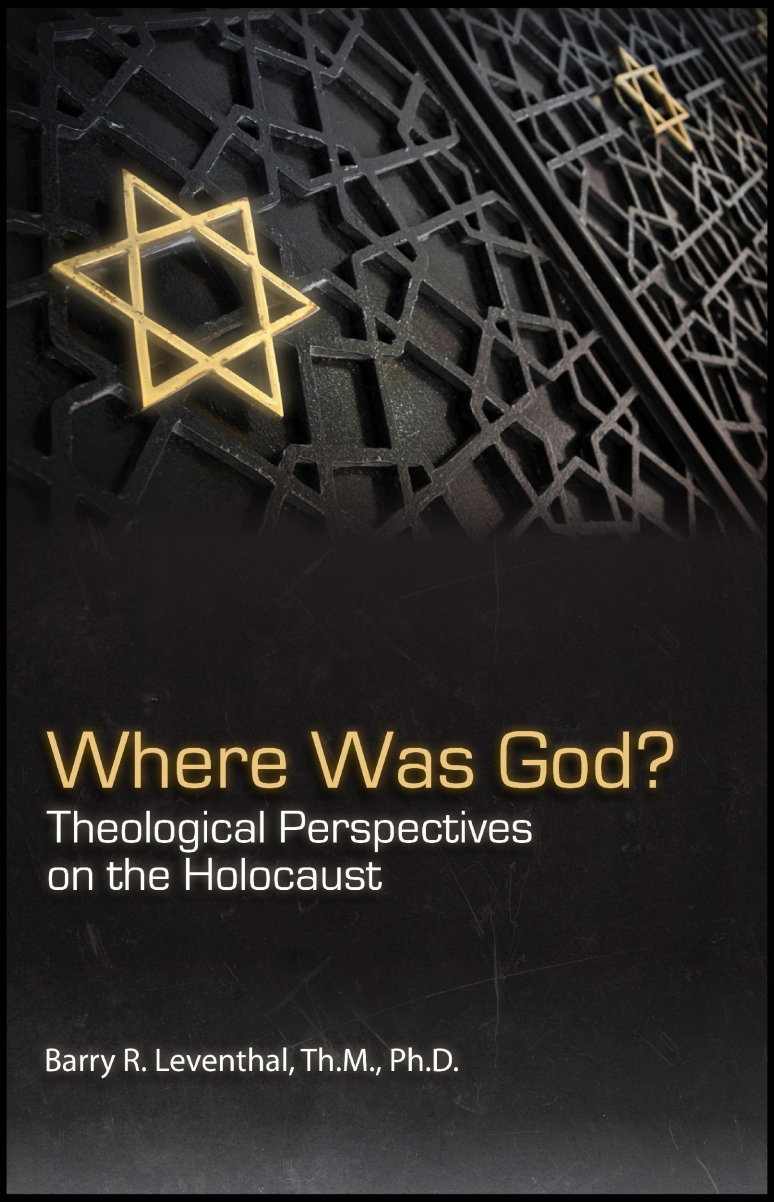
Ariel Magazine

Summer 2024 / Volume 1 / #51

אריאל Ariel Ministries

The History of Ariel's Shoshanah Campus
Shoshanah Vision@50
Plus 22 Personal Testimonies



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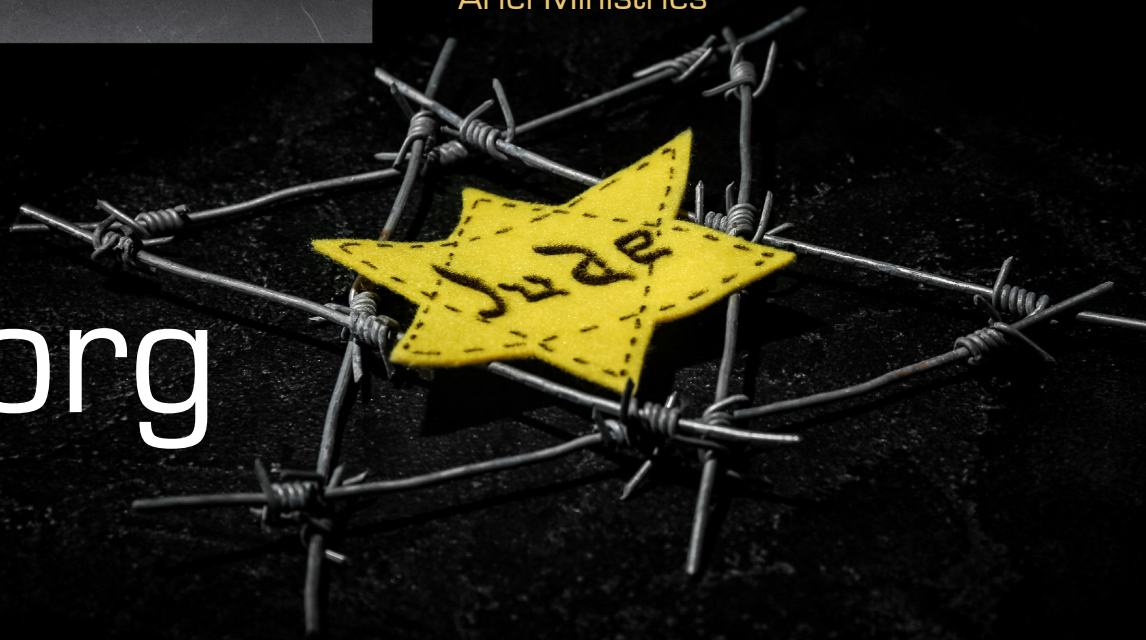
"This work offers biblically based explanations for the existence of evil in a world that was created by an omnipotent, omniscient, and all-loving God. It provides a solid biblical response to the most haunting of all questions: Where was God in the Holocaust? In doing so, the book does not shy away from putting Israel's responsibility in its proper place—a sobering point that becomes all the more powerful because the author of this work was a Jew."

Dr. Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum,
Ariel Ministries



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EDITOR'S LETTER

Purpose Statement

Ariel Ministries exists in order to evangelize Jewish people and to disciple Jewish and Gentile believers through intensive Bible teaching from a Jewish perspective.

Board of Directors:
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Publication:

Publisher
Ariel Ministries
11926 Radium Street
San Antonio, Texas 78216-2713

Editor-in-Chief
Christiane Jurik

Copy Editor
Pauline Ilsen

Proofreader
Roxanne Tretheway

Contributing Writers
Arnold Fruchtenbaum
L. Jesse Grace
Tim Sigler
And numerous others

Art Directors
Jesse & Josh Gonzales

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A Piece of Heaven on Earth

This issue of *Ariel Magazine* is dedicated to Camp Shoshanah, a place that many students of the Word call "a piece of heaven on earth." For other students, it has served as their theological cradle. These students have gone on to become scholars themselves and join full-time ministries.

Camp Shoshanah holds a special place in my heart as well because it is where I met my husband, Wayne. It was 1996, and I was sitting under the camp flagpole when he walked by. He immediately recognized me as the student from Germany, thanks to the "funky German pants" I was wearing. They were high-water trousers (think Star Trek), admittedly quite unconventional at the time, and they matched the colors of the Israeli flag above my head.

I myself was quickly taken with Wayne's good looks and his ability to make everyone around him laugh. I soon learned that he had a servant's heart as a missionary, so there was no doubt that he was my kind of man. For the next three weeks, every time I saw him, I would turn around and walk the other way. After all, I had come to camp not to find love but to study the Word of God. Two years later, we were married under the *chuppah* at Camp Shoshanah. Our children grew up at camp, and one of them was baptized by Dr. Fruchtenbaum in Trout Pond.

Our story is not unique. Thirteen other couples have met at the camp. Ariel's unofficial historian, Mottel Baleston, keeps track of these camp romances. Mottel, who provided most of the pictures in this magazine and the contact information for some of the authors, is as much an "institution" at camp as Dr. Fruchtenbaum himself. My husband and I feel honored to be able to call him a friend. Such friendships between students and teachers develop naturally at camp—during dinner or over a cup of coffee before class. I learned just how accessible the teachers really are when my firstborn told me one day that he could not join me for lunch because he needed to speak with Dr. Fruchtenbaum. Before I knew it, this little seven-year-old was sitting with the Frucht, asking him theological questions. It is no surprise that Dr. Fruchtenbaum gave the correct answers.

In recognition of the biblical teaching that the camp offers, the ministry decided to rename it a few years ago. It is now known as Ariel's School of Messianic Jewish Studies at the Shoshanah Campus. The academic nature of this title accurately reflects the camp's primary focus on theological education rather than just recreational activities like swimming in Trout Pond or hiking in the Adirondack Mountains.

Lives have been transformed at the Shoshanah Campus because of the teaching, and we invite you to join us in the lecture hall this year or next!

Christiane Jurik
Editor-in-Chief

Ariel Mission Branches & Representatives

ARIEL BRANCHES

Ariel Australia
Chris & Lisa Savage
Website:www.ariel.org.au
Email: info@ariel.org.au
Chris and Lisa Savage represent Ariel Ministries in Australia. Based in Victoria, they teach the Scriptures from the Jewish perspective in weekly and bi-monthly classes and day seminars.

Ariel Canada
Jacques Isaac & Sharon Gabizon
Website: www.arielcanada.com
Email: info@bethariel.ca
J. I. and Sharon Gabizon represent Ariel Ministries in Canada. The couple established a Messianic congregation in Montreal called Beth Ariel.The branch's multiple projects include translation work and door-to-door evangelism of Jewish homes in Montreal.

Jackie Fierman
Jackie Fierman has been with Ariel Canada since January of 2005, traveling and sharing about the ministry and teaching its material in Canada and the U.S.A.

Ariel India
Bakul N. Christian
Email: bakulchristian@yahoo.co.in
Bakul Christian represents Ariel Ministries in India and resides with his wife in Ahmedabad. Using Ariel's extensive teaching material, he expounds the Scriptures from a Messianic Jewish perspective in his home state. He is also responsible for the translations into the Gujarati language.

Ariel Israel
Sasha & Lilian Granovsky
Website: https://www.ariel-israel.org.il/
Email: sashag@ariel.org
The husband-and-wife team has been representing Ariel Ministries in Israel since October 2009. They are responsible for coordinating the translation of our manuscripts and books into Hebrew and Russian.

Ariel China
For safety issues, we must protect the identity of this branch. Please keep them in your prayers.

Ariel Germany
Website: www.cmv-duesseldorf.de
Email: cmv-cmv@t-online.de
Thanks to Manfred Künstler and his wife Hanna, Ariel Ministries has had a presence in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland since 1985. In 2002, the work was passed on to Georg Hagedorn who, eight years later, developed it into a full branch. A dedicated team leads this branch today, responsible for tasks such as translating Ariel materials and organizing conferences.

Ariel Hungary
Ivan & Rita Nagy
Email: hungary@ariel.org
Ivan and Rita Nagy represent Ariel Ministries in Hungary. The husband-and-wife team has developed a Come & See website in Hungarian. They host several home Bible study groups, teaching from Ariel's materials. Their goal is to make teachings available to Jewish and Gentile believers and unbelievers in Hungary.

Ariel Italy
Paolo & Martina Speciale
Website: www.arielitalia.it
Email: info@arielitalia.it
Paolo and Martina Speciale represent Ariel Ministries in Italy. The husband-and-wife team coordinates the translations of our manuscripts and books into Italian. Their goal is to share the Messianic Jewish perspective in Italy through live teaching, social media pages, and seminars.

Ariel New Zealand
Website: http://ariel.org.nz/
Email: info@ariel.co.nz
This branch is led by Johan Jansen van Vuuren, Nigel Christensen, Matthew Lord, Don Thompson, and John Cavanagh. For information about the many activities of this branch, please contact info@ariel.co.nz.

Ariel Ministries Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas
Email: dfw@ariel.org
This branch is devoted to teaching the Word of God from a biblical Jewish perspective in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex. They also travel throughout the United States. If you are interested in hosting a teaching session, symposium, or seminar, contact them at dfw@ariel.org.

Ariel Liberia
Wion & Shirley Wleh
Email: wionwleh@yahoo.com
Wion and Shirley Wleh represent Ariel Ministries in Monrovia, Liberia, West Africa. The husband-and-wife team teaches the Scriptures from a Messianic Jewish perspective in workshops, seminars, and weekly classes designed for pastors and laypersons alike.

Ariel Hawaii
David and Danielle Tamala
Email: info@arielhawaii.org
David and Danielle Tamala represent Ariel Ministries in the Hawaiian Islands. They founded Ka Hale O Hamashiach, a congregation on Oahu, and have become an invaluable resource for local churches. Among their numerous projects are youth outreach programs and the organization of conferences.

ARIEL REPRESENTATIVES

Joe Azevedo – Shoshanah Campus Supervisor (New York)
Email: Shoshanahcampus@ariel.org
Joe is the supervisor of the Shoshanah Campus, which is the home of Ariel's School of Messianic Jewish Studies in Keeseville, NY. Every summer, he and his wife Cindy organize and host Ariel's ten-week Bible study program on campus.

Roberto Anchondo – Field Representative (El Paso, Texas, New Mexico, and Mexico)
Email: robertopmttrust@yahoo.com
Roberto Anchondo represents Ariel Ministries in parts of the Southwest regions of the U.S. and some cities in Mexico. He is currently discipling groups of men in the Jewish perspective. He also works with numerous churches in Mexico, teaching the importance of standing by Israel.

John Metzger – Field Representative (North Carolina)
Website: www.promisestoisrael.org
Email: EhbedAriel@gmail.com
Missionary and author John Metzger represents Ariel Ministries in North Carolina. He is a teacher and speaker who actively travels throughout the central and eastern part of the U.S., speaking at various churches and conferences.

Jack Nakashima – Field Representative (Rock Hill, SC)
Email: jacknariel@gmail.com
Jack Nakashima represents Ariel Ministries in Rock Hill, SC. Previously serving in Israel, he is now available to teach and disciple in the U.S.

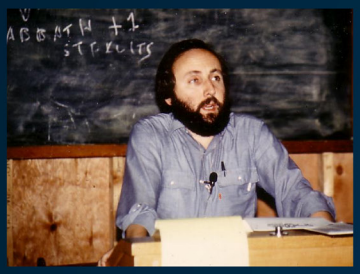
Stephen Reynolds – Field Representative (UK)
Email: homeoffice@ariel.org
Stephen Reynolds represents Ariel Ministries in the UK. The British Sign Language interpreter frequently goes on mission trips to the Philippines and is assisting a like-minded pastor in England to establish a local dispensational church.

50th SHOSHANAH שושנה

2024 School of Messianic Jewish Studies

July 1 – August 23, 2024

Labor Day Weekend Program
August 30 – September 2



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- Book of Exodus
- Book of Leviticus
- Book of Numbers
- Jewish Family Life
- Eight Covenants of the Bible
- Ministries and Gifts of the Holy Spirit
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- Highlights of the Minor Prophets
- Plan of the Ages
- Messianic Jewish Theology Today
- The Spiritual Life
- Life of Messiah
- Ezra
- Nehemiah
- The Book of Romans and the Jews
- Life and Rule of David
- Life and Rule of Solomon
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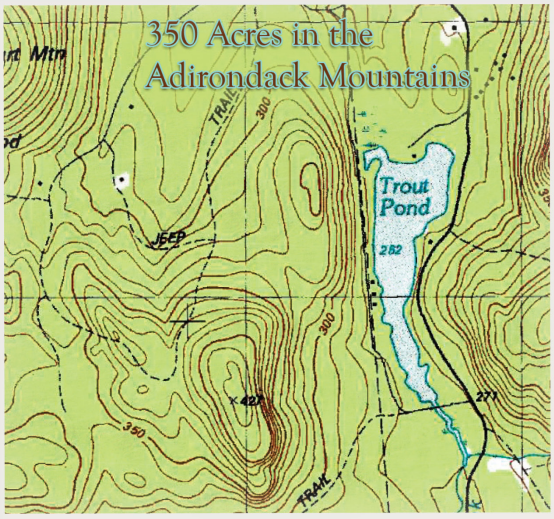
For more information: Phone 518-834-6057 / Email shoshanahcampus@ariel.org / Visit: arielshoshanahcampus.com

The History of Ariel's Shoshanah Campus

By L. Jesse Grace[1]

The first time Arnold Fruchtenbaum set foot on the grounds of what is known today as the Shoshanah Campus of Ariel's School of Messianic Jewish Studies in the Adirondacks was during the summer of 1959. He had just recently graduated from junior high school. At age fifteen, he was full of fervor about Yeshua, whom he had received as his Jewish Messiah in October 1956, shortly after his thirteenth birthday. In the spring of 1958, his family had moved from New York City to Los Angeles. After a long year of eager anticipation, Arnold was finally able to return to New York for a few weeks in 1959. He could not wait to study God's Word in greater depth and enthusiastically looked forward to attending a two-week Bible study program called the Memory Camp, which his mentor, Mr. Burl Haynie, had newly launched that summer.

Based on a five-year model called Miracle Camps developed by another ministry, the program focused on a different biblical topic for each of the five years. Burl Haynie, a Gentile believer working for the American Board of Missions to the Jews, or ABMJ (later renamed Chosen People Ministries), had revised the material to encompass a Jewish orientation to make it relevant to the Messianic Jewish teenagers who would be taking part.



Headquartered in New York City, the ABMJ had rented the property in the Adirondacks expressly for this new summer camp and would fund the entire cost of running the program. Hence, for the participants, the camp would be free. To motivate Jewish teenagers to attend, the ABMJ even offered the incentive of a free trip to those who could verifiably commit to memory the relevant 120 assigned verses from the Bible prior to the start of the program. Any candidate could also win a prize at the camp for successfully reciting all the verses by heart in one go. Of course, Arnold not only attained a free round-trip Greyhound bus ticket, but he also won a great prize at the camp—a *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*.

Beautiful Location

Nestled in the heartland of the beautiful Adirondack Mountains near Lake Champlain in upstate New York, the campsite was off the beaten track in a small clearing amid endless acres of forests. It was a pristine piece of land, located in the vicinity of the old stagecoach route between Albany and Montreal. A little lake called Trout Pond was situated across the main road on the far end of the property. Except for the actual cleared campgrounds, a dense forest covered the rest of the surroundings.

The camp facilities were extremely rustic, with only limited running spring water. Two dilapidated army barracks served as dormitories. The one for the girls contained an interior shower stall, whereas a small outer bathhouse was designated for the boys who slept in the other structure. A separate wooden building comprising a kitchen and dining hall doubled as a classroom for the Bible study lessons. While very basic, the accommodations were adequate for the purposes of the Memory Camp. Arnold enjoyed every minute of his camp life among a group of approximately twenty Messianic Jewish teenage peers.

Rose Burnham, aka Aunt Rose

Camp Heathcote

Aunt Rose

The owner of this idyllic environment was Rose Burnham, whom everyone affectionately called Aunt Rose. She would have been in her mid-sixties when Arnold initially met her at the first Memory Camp. He remembered her as a tiny lady full of energy, spunk, and verve. Notorious for her fast driving, she was often seen zipping down the main road near the campsite in her little yellow Volkswagen beetle with her longtime dog companion, Rudy, as a passenger. Single and never married, Rose was fiercely independent. She was kind and charitable, almost to a fault, and somewhat self-conscious. From her maternal grandfather, who was an Episcopalian priest, she derived a deep interest in and care for missions.

Working among the Navajos, a Native American people group in the Four Corners area (where Utah, Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico meet), she helped to translate the New Testament into their language. Rose Burnham soon established a reputation for being low-key and tenderhearted, yet extremely courageous, as was evident in one incident. In the early 1920s, she once bravely hurled a bucket of boiling water onto a drunken Navajo assailant as a deterrent to halt his rape attempt. During one bitterly cold winter, the ministry ran out of food, and she survived off the corn supply reserved for the chickens. It was to this harsh winter that Rose attributed her subsequent poor health.

When her physical condition deteriorated, she returned to upstate New York and found employment with the local Essex County tax office as a property title searcher. In those days of big lumber business, companies purchased large tracts of land in the area with a mere down payment, logged off all the trees, and abandoned the land, simultaneously defaulting on their tax payments. The county authorities would consequently be forced to confiscate the land and publicly auction it off to the highest bidder. Because she worked at the tax office, Rose would be one of the first to be aware of which tracts of land became available. Simply by paying off the taxes, she could literally acquire the land before it went to auction. Thus, through her foresight and ingenuity, Rose was able to own thousands of acres of land in the Adirondack Mountains in addition to the inheritance from her father. Being generous and charitable, she gave away much of her land over time to other believers and acquaintances.

Although Rose was a Gentile believer and had very little contact with the Jewish people, she had a special burden for Jewish missions. In the early 1950s, she turned her attention to converting part of the property she so loved into a summer Bible camp, setting aside 264 acres of land expressly for that purpose. She named the site Camp Heathcote in honor of her mother, whose maiden name was Heathcote.

A summer children's Bible camp was soon launched at Camp Heathcote. For a few summers, it was led by a local pastor, Rev. Joe Morrow. When the pastor moved away with his family in the late 1950s, Rose Burnham contacted the ABMJ headquarters in New York City and offered the property to the mission as the setting for an annual summer Bible camp for Jewish believers. Before arriving at a decision, the ABMJ sent its worker, Burl Haynie, then in his mid-forties, to inspect the property. Burl's trip took place right in the midst of a severely cold and snowy winter in the "North Country." In that era, with no highways and only partially paved roads for this particular route, it took Burl much longer than the normal ten-hour drive in good weather to get from New York City to the campsite. There, he met Rose Burnham for the first time.

Arnold Fruchtenbaum teaching one of his first lectures

Burl Haynie

Burl Haynie

Clad in heavily padded clothing and extra-long, sturdy boots, plus an additional pair of snowshoes, Burl slowly trudged his way across the campsite. The snow was so high that he had to bend over and look downward through a window to take a peek inside one of the two main wooden structures to be used as dormitories. These were discarded army barracks from the World War II era that the military had donated and transported onto the property. A few smaller, rickety shacks were also dispersed on the campgrounds, one of which even had bats nesting inside! All in all, the buildings were in a rather dilapidated condition.

After reviewing Burl's assessment, the ABMJ concluded that it did not want to be saddled with the upkeep of the grounds all year round just for a short summer camp once a year. In addition, Rose had also stipulated that the property was to be developed and used for Jewish ministries only, and the ABMJ would not be allowed to sell the site later on for any other purpose. As the ABMJ did not wish to receive any land with those restrictions, it graciously declined her offer.

Even though the campsite was in a terrible state of disrepair, Burl personally felt an immediate connection to the property. In his heart, he also shared the same burden as Rose in reaching out to the Jews and, hence, remained in contact with her. A couple of years later, when Burl was in the throes of preparing for his first-ever, five-year Memory Camp for Messianic Jewish teenagers and needed a place to run the program, he thought of the spot in the Adirondacks. The old army barracks, though very rudimentary in condition, could serve as dormitories for the youth and would be sufficient for that purpose. Thus, the ABMJ rented the Heathcote campgrounds for two weeks each year in order for Burl to run the five-year Memory Camp from the summer of 1959 through the summer of 1963. Arnold attended the program for four of these five years.

Ruth Wardell teaching the Scriptures to Arnold (front) and others (ca. 1954)

Ruth Wardell

Studying and Working

Ever since Arnold first visited the campgrounds back in 1959, he was mesmerized by the tranquility of the surroundings and captivated by the magnificent beauty of the luscious forests. He loved being in this spiritually inspiring environment and longed to spend more time there. Much to his dismay, circumstances at home prevented him from attending the second Memory Camp, in 1960. Instead, Burl flew to California for two weeks that summer to instruct him privately one-on-one, which Arnold most appreciated. Even so, the wonderful experience of physically being present in this enchanting spot in the woodlands remained unmatched.

Starting in 1961, prior to the third Memory Camp, Arnold and a lad from Washington, D.C., named Robert (Bob) Futoran, arrived with Burl to upgrade the campsite. For two weeks, Arnold and Bob did mainly rough manual labor in the open air. They cleared substantial amounts of undergrowth in the woods and pruned the trees, sawing off low-hanging branches to provide an unobstructed view of the calm waters of Trout Pond, which was surrounded by the beautiful, forested mountains. They also felled trees along the little sandy beach to use in the construction of a wooden staircase from the top of the nearby incline down to the lake.

To equip the kitchen with some limited running water, they hooked up water pipes to the little spring up the hill, from which they got their source of good drinking water. They also connected a line to the lake to pump out water, which was then treated with chlorine for use in the showers. At one stage, they tried to drill a well but soon discovered quicksand at the bottom. The well rapidly filled up with mire, turning the attempt into a flop. After clearing a small walking trail in the woods from the main road to Trout Pond, they erected a gate across the entrance to the footpath to deter the public from accessing the little private lake.

The following summer of 1962, Bob Futoran, a couple of years younger than Arnold and a close friend by then, had come up to the campsite on his own a few weeks earlier than usual. When Arnold joined him, Bob learned that his friend had graduated from high school in June and had been expelled from his parents' home because of his faith in Messiah Yeshua.

Aside from hooking up the water supply and carrying out general maintenance work on the buildings, their main job that summer was to install a septic tank, for which they had to dig a trench. While working together, the two lads got to know each other's family background in more depth and grew closer like brothers. As usual, Arnold thoroughly enjoyed every aspect of his time at the camp, soaking up all that Mr. Haynie taught from the Word and enthusiastically engaging in fellowship with the other Messianic Jewish teenagers.

By the time the summer of 1963 rolled around, Arnold had already completed his first year of college. Once again, he and Bob worked on the campgrounds in preparation for the fifth and final segment of the Memory Camp. It was gratifying to see the improvements they had made to the campsite year after year to render it more presentable. Arnold also realized how much more of the Bible he had learned from Mr. Haynie in just one summer than he had in an entire year of Bible classes at college. The Memory Camp program strongly impacted his knowledge of the Scriptures and left an indelible influence on his spiritual life.

Arnold Fruchtenbaum (middle) with Bob Futoran and another student in 1958

The Haynie-Cooper Connection

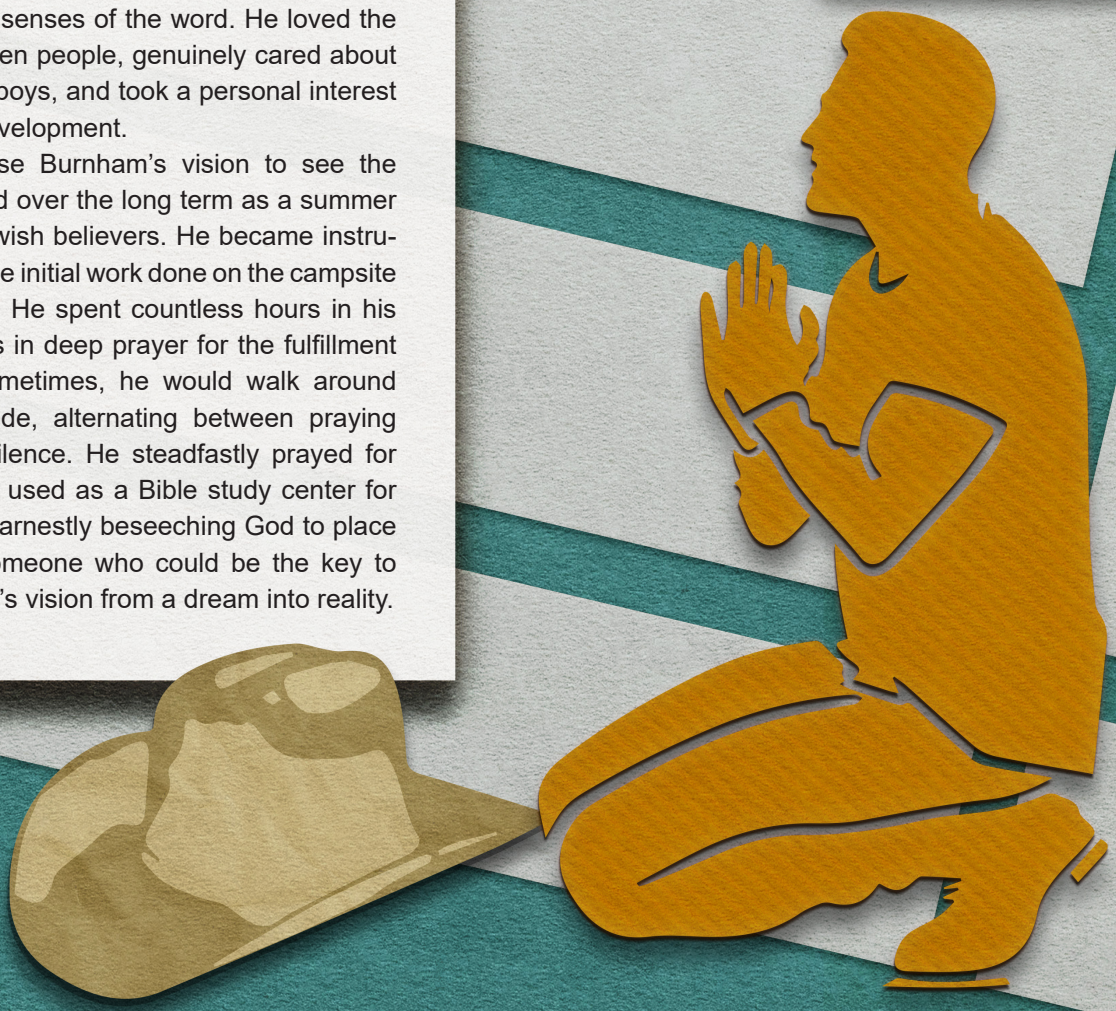
Before transferring to the ABMJ headquarters in New York City, Burl Haynie had served in the Los Angeles office on the West Coast. While there, he also studied at the Biblical Research Society under the ministry of Dr. David L. Cooper, from whom he learned to interpret the Bible from a dispensational perspective. Like Dr. Cooper, Burl was very serious about Bible study. He made sure to instill the same disciplined approach in Arnold and the other students at Camp Heathcote that he possessed himself. He also imparted to them a keenness for learning and an increasing desire to delve more deeply into the Scriptures.

Always displaying a wonderful smile on his face and radiating an aura of joy, Burl spoke slowly with a deep Texan drawl. A tall, strong, and hardworking man often seen wearing a ten-gallon cowboy hat and leather boots, he could fell a tree and split it in two without much effort. At the same time, Burl was a gentle being in all senses of the word. He loved the Lord and His chosen people, genuinely cared about the welfare of the boys, and took a personal interest in their spiritual development.

Burl shared Rose Burnham's vision to see the grounds developed over the long term as a summer Bible camp for Jewish believers. He became instrumental in getting the initial work done on the campsite in the early years. He spent countless hours in his room on his knees in deep prayer for the fulfillment of that vision. Sometimes, he would walk around the grounds outside, alternating between praying out loud and in silence. He steadfastly prayed for the property to be used as a Bible study center for Messianic Jews, earnestly beseeching God to place a burden upon someone who could be the key to transforming Rose's vision from a dream into reality.

Burl Haynie

Dr. David L. Cooper



Aunt Rose's Vision

In 1962, Rev. Morrow, the pastor who originally ran the yearly children's Bible study program at Camp Heathcote, passed away. Rose Burnham relied on other pastors of a local church association, called the Clinton-Essex Evangelical Association (CEEA), to continue the program every summer, which they did for a further seven years. In 1963, when the fifth and last segment of Burl Haynie's program ended, the ABMJ discontinued the camp. Meanwhile, due to health reasons, Rose moved to Florida, where the weather was warmer all year. Within only a few years of relocating, she died in 1969. Unfortunately, she did not live to see her dream of developing the property to be used annually as a summer Bible study camp for Jewish believers fulfilled. The CEEA continued taking care of her property.

Eventually, the pastors of the CEEA began to lose interest in running the local children's summer camp. They were all heavily involved in their respective ministries and did not have sufficient time or energy to develop the campsite. The Lord seemed to have other things for them to do.

The CEEA continued to rent out the property to different churches and ministries here and there for their use during the summer months. Other than that, the camp itself fell largely into disuse. However, Burl Haynie's vision for this forested plot of land never waned, and he continued to come up to the campsite, using his own money to rent the premises in order to teach the Bible and to work on the grounds. He faithfully prevailed in his prayers for the fulfillment of the vision that Rose had originally desired for the property.

After the five-year Memory Camp program came to an end, Arnold thought that he would never again have another opportunity to spend any length of time in this special area of the Adirondacks. He knew that he would miss this idyllic oasis of peace and felt very nostalgic for the good times he had experienced at the camp. In particular, he was deeply grateful for all the Bible training that he had received from Mr. Haynie. Having three more years of college left, Arnold still had no idea where his future years of Bible training would lead or what lay beyond. One thing he did know with absolute certainty was that he was called into Jewish ministry, and he wanted to serve as a full-time, paid staff member of the ABMJ. At that time, he did not have the faintest inkling that God had other plans for his life.

Clinton Essex
CEEA
Evangelical Association

Ten Years Later

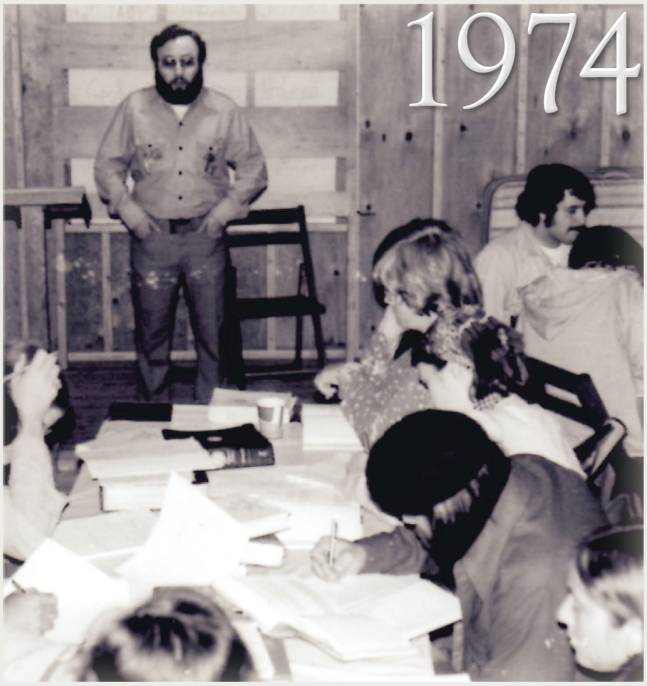
During the ten years after the fifth segment of the Memory Camp came to an end in the summer of 1963, much had transpired in Arnold's life. He had graduated from college, spent fourteen months in Jerusalem as a student, returned to the United States to attend four years of seminary, married Mary Ann, the daughter of Rev. Morrow, and had gone to Israel with her to serve the needs of the Messianic believers there. Shortly after coming back from their two-year ministry in Jerusalem, both Arnold and his wife were employed in the fall of 1973 at the ABMJ headquarters, which had by then relocated from New York City to Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey. Arnold was offered the role of managing editor of publications, and Mary Ann performed clerical accounting duties. They both had a deep resolve and desire to reach the Jewish people with the gospel message of Yeshua, the Jewish Messiah.

While working at the ABMJ, Arnold got acquainted with Daniel C. Rigney, a Gentile believer, who headed up the ABMJ mission work in Baltimore, Maryland. Additionally, Dan, as he was known, and his wife, Arlene, also a Gentile believer, served as directors of ABMJ's two-week Camp *Sar Shalom* ("Prince of Peace"), which took place every summer at a rented Mennonite campsite in Honey Brook, Pennsylvania. One day, Dan approached Arnold with a request to help him set up a one-week Bible study camp for a group of new Jewish teenage believers, mostly high school students, whom he was mentoring. This was to be a unique, one-time-only discipleship event to take place in the summer of 1974. Although entirely funded by the ABMJ and operating under its general camp ministry, it would be a totally different kind of program, completely separate from its Camp *Sar Shalom*.

Arnold's role would be to prepare all the Bible lessons and teach the group for the whole week, which he gladly agreed to do. Dan Rigney would look after the logistics and other practical matters in the running of the camp. Upon exploring possible venues, Dan and Arnold both concluded that the Camp Heathcote property in the Adirondacks of upstate New York would be an ideal setting to rent for the event. Arnold was very keen to return to the beautiful, idyllic forest surroundings, which he had so missed in the interim. Teaching the Word to Dan's group there would give him an opportunity to reconnect with his past and reminisce about the wonderful times he had experienced during the Memory Camps under the tutelage and guidance of Mr. Burl Haynie.

Arnold and Mary Ann Fruchtenbaum, 1968

Arnold Fruchtenbaum at the Shoshanah Campus, 1982



1974, the first year of teaching at the Shoshanah Campus

Gary Derechinsky presents a lecture

Return to the Camp Property

By the summer of 1974, eleven years had elapsed since Arnold was last at the campgrounds in the Adirondacks. Many wonderful things had transpired in his life during that interlude. In stark contrast, the camp property itself had deteriorated and gone downhill from the lack of upkeep during the intervening years. Nevertheless, Arnold was very grateful to be back, not as a pupil this time but as a teacher of the Word. About fifteen individuals, including staff members, attended this unique camp program. It was a joy for Arnold to be teaching the Bible to new Jewish believers. Where Mr. Burl Haynie had once taught and mentored Arnold many years earlier through the five-year Memory Camp, it was now his disciple, Arnold, who was teaching other Jewish believers in the same beautiful setting. The teenage students learned and benefited so much from his Bible lessons and gave such excellent feedback that Dan and Arnold decided to offer the event again the next summer. They even expanded it to two weeks instead of one. Hence, Arnold set about preparing more materials on additional biblical topics.

Arnold and Mary Ann Fruchtenbaum at the Shoshanah Campus, 1983

Arnold Fruchtenbaum breaking bread during the weekly Shabbat dinner, 1982

Today

The program Arnold developed became known as Camp Shoshanah. In 1977, Ariel Ministries was established, and the ministry acquired the property. In 2019, it underwent a name change to Shoshanah Campus, accommodating Ariel's School of Messianic Jewish Studies. The updated name symbolizes both the consistent high-quality education provided to students over the past fifty years and the transformation of the once rustic camp into a comfortable retreat with air-conditioned rooms, a luxurious dining hall, and a lecture hall. Numerous students of Arnold have ventured into Jewish ministry, with some finding love on the campus and later getting married. As families grew, a youth program was introduced.

Over the last five decades, believers from thirty-five countries have sought instruction from Arnold on the campgrounds. Some longtime attendees have passed away, while others continue to visit annually, volunteering their time or returning to study under Arnold and other excellent Bible teachers.

Camp Shoshanah certainly has had a profound impact on lives, and the entire team of Ariel Ministries expresses gratitude to the Orchestrator of this transformative journey, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

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[1] This article is based on several chapters of the author's book *Shoshanah's Legacy: The Uplifting and Inspiring Stories Behind Ariel Ministries' Camp Shoshanah in the Adirondacks* (San Antonio, TX: Ariel Ministries, 2019). The original text has been edited and shortened for the purpose of this article.

Faithfully teaching the Word into his 80s

Dr. Sigler's inaugural teaching at the campus, 2023

From left to right: Mottel Baleston, Arnold Fruchtenbaum, and Bob Morris

50th SHOSHANAH שושנה

Afternoon fun

Messianic dancing

Study time

The youth presenting what they have learned

People come from all over the world to listen to his teaching

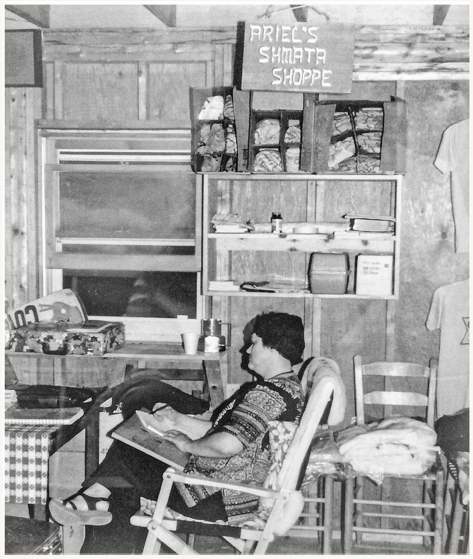
Wednesday morning group picture

God's Faithful Servant

By Dr. Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum

One of Dr. Fruchtenbaum's most important and instrumental early coworkers at the Shoshanah Campus was Dan Rigney (1936 – 2010). In this article, Dr. Fruchtenbaum shares his memories of this brother, who not only served as a valued ministry partner but also developed into a close personal friend.[1]

I do not remember exactly when I first met Dan Rigney and his wife, Arlene, but I do know it was during our early years working with what was then known as the American Board of Missions to the Jews (ABMJ). I was still a student at Dallas Theological Seminary, but my summers would take me to New York City. During one of my drives to the city, two of my tires went flat, and the other two were showing wear. Dan had been a garage worker in his unsaved days and knew what I needed. He purchased four new tires for me. This was the beginning of a friendship that would last a lifetime.



Arlene Rigney selling snacks during breaks

Dan and Arlene Rigney in 2001

After I finished seminary, my wife and I moved to Israel for two years of ministry and study. When we returned to the United States, we joined the ABMJ at its headquarters and reconnected with the Rigneys. At the time, Dan and Arlene were planning to take a group of young Jewish believers on an evangelistic tour into New England and suggested running a one-week Bible study program in the midst of that campaign. The program was to take place at Camp Heathcote, where Burl Haynie had previously discipled me and others. The ABMJ had also used the property before, and now the Rigneys wanted to utilize it for a special week of teaching young Messianic Jews. Initially, they considered it a one-time event, but their idea actually led to the founding of Camp Shoshanah.

After the Inception of Camp Shoshanah

Things went well for that first summer of 1974, and Dan and I decided to offer another teaching program at Camp Heathcote the following year, this time for two weeks. Since then, the study program at what is known today as the Shoshanah Campus has expanded in a variety of ways. For starters, it now runs for eight and a half weeks each summer. Furthermore, the facilities have been upgraded from rustic barracks to modern rooms and buildings. Attendance has increased from fifteen to 115 students, representing many different countries. Dan passed away before some of these upgrades were completed, but we know he would have enjoyed seeing them all. He was a real fan of Camp Shoshanah.

Dan and Arlene Rigney (second row, fourth and fifth from the right) at the Shoshanah Campus in 1989

Arlene and Dan Rigney with Vincent and Miriam Morgan (right)

The Rigneys next to the Fruchtenbaums

Different Paths

Eventually, the Rigneys, my wife, and I left the ABMJ for other ministries. I began working with the Christian Jew Foundation (CJF), based in San Antonio, Texas. During that time, the camp program continued. However, Dan and Arlene were unable to attend due to various reasons.

In due course, I initiated the groundwork for the establishment of Ariel Ministries. To achieve this goal, I did a lot of traveling to share my vision with others. One time, I came through San Francisco, and by a stroke of Calvinistic luck, I ran into Dan. We sat down to talk. He was looking for a way to leave the ministry that he had joined and was quite interested in learning what Ariel Ministries would be like. I happened to have the basic plans in writing, which I shared with him. Dan liked what he read and asked if he could join. The ministry began with just my secretary and me, and we were able to bring the Rigneys on staff. They established Ariel's first branch in Baltimore, Maryland

Dan Rigney baptizing a new believer in Trout Pond

Outreach to Russian Jews

While Baltimore served as their base, the Rigneys' ministry soon expanded into Europe. One year, Dan and Arlene spent a week in Italy evangelizing Russian Jews in transit camps awaiting immigration to Israel. Upon their return to the United States, the Rigneys reported on the success of their mission, prompting me to send them back for a more extended period. Thus began the Rigneys' Russian Jewish ministry, which became their lifelong passion.

In the meantime, the ABMJ had changed its name to Chosen People Ministries (CPM). This ministry wanted to establish a branch in Kiev, Ukraine, and hoped that Ariel Ministries would assist in this endeavor by allowing the Rigneys to lead it. The inquiry was met with an enthusiastic response. Soon, Dan and Arlene were on their way to Kiev. Their ministry grew so successful that it extended all the way to Germany. For example, the leader of the only Messianic congregation in Berlin is from Kiev and came to faith through their work.

Later on, Dan and Arlene moved to Saint Petersburg, Russia, where they served until their health forced them to return to the United States. Yet, the congregation they left behind still exists today as far as I know.

Israel and Back to Camp

The Rigneys were able to join me on one of my five-week study tours of Israel. They created a T-shirt that said, "I went to Israel with the Frucht and survived!" Until my last tour, we made this T-shirt available to those who participated in my trips to Israel. Dan's humor was wonderful, yet what I remember most about him is his extensive involvement in Camp Shoshanah. In the early days, the lecture hall and

dining hall were one and the same. The building had a tin roof, and when it rained, the noise was so loud that no one could hear my lecture, and we had no sound system to use. Dan had a powerful voice that never required a microphone to be heard. So, on rainy days, I would lecture and he would repeat everything I said in a booming voice, ensuring that everyone heard the teaching. Dan also regularly brought students into the program. He helped to build one of the bathhouses on campus and the accommodations above it. He organized Russian summer camps, took charge of the Sunday services, and personally discipled many of our students.

Dan the Evangelist

If I were to evaluate Dan, I would emphasize two things. First, he was an evangelist and rarely went a day without witnessing to someone. He often had to go to hospitals for various treatments, but rather than feeling sorry for himself, he made it a point to share the gospel with every nurse and doctor he encountered. Even while on deputation tours, he continued to evangelize. For decades, he would take young people on outreach missions, teaching them how to share the good news of Messiah with others. In my church presentations, I often highlighted that not a quarter passed without at least one Jewish person coming to faith, a success largely attributed to Dan's efforts. Second, he was a discipler, and many people now in full-time ministry were mentored by him. It is reasonable to conclude that Ariel's School of Messianic Jewish Studies at the Shoshanah Campus owes much of its success to Dan Rigney's influence and hard work.

[1] This article is based on a text Dr. Fruchtenbaum wrote for the following book: L. Jesse Grace, *Shoshanah's Legacy: The Uplifting and Inspiring Stories Behind Ariel Ministries' Camp Shoshanah in the Adirondacks* (San Antonio, TX: Ariel Ministries, 2020), pp. 291-297.

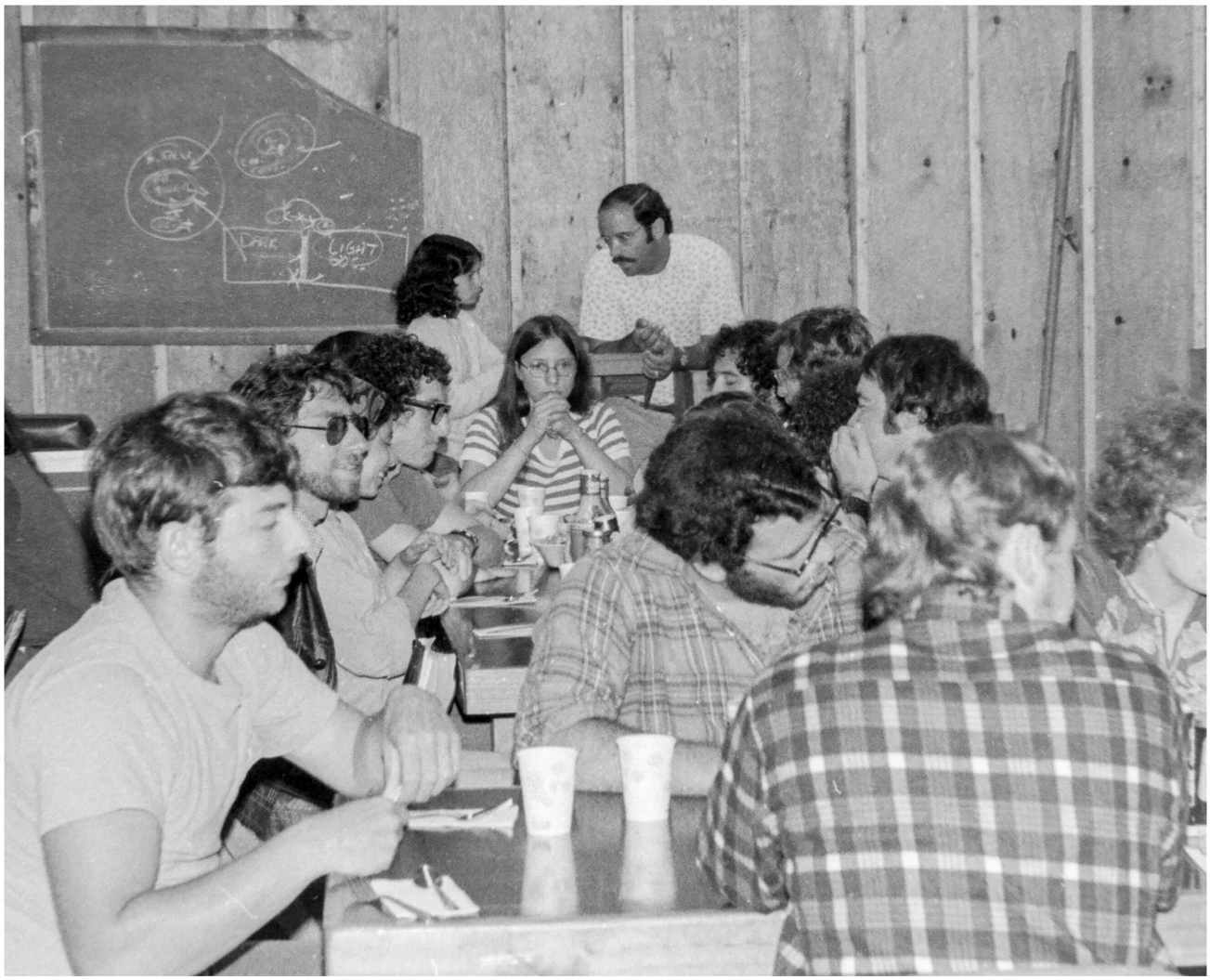
The Rigneys with other believers from Baltimore, 1984

Always serving: Dan Rigney holding the mike for a sister

Dr. Michael Rydelnik

There Is a Time to Study and a Time to Teach

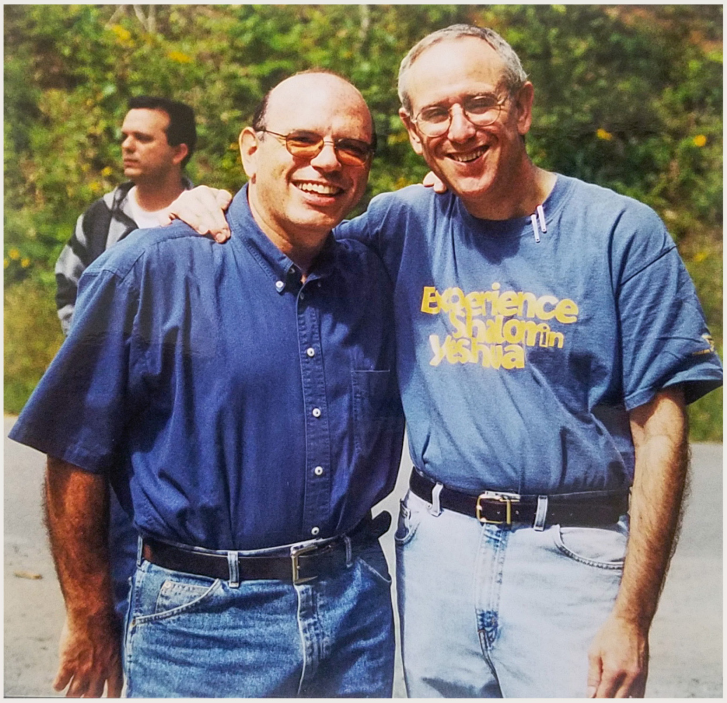
Dr. Michael Rydelnik was among the first students at Camp Shoshanah. Fifty years ago, in 1974, he spent an unforgettable time of study in this special place and formed a friendship with Dr. Fruchtenbaum that would last a lifetime. Years after his first visit to Camp, Dr. Rydelnik came back and taught the Bible there as well. Today, he is Vice President and Academic Dean at Moody Bible Institute and has served there as Professor of Jewish Studies and Bible for thirty years.



Early camp years with the late Barry Leventhal as teacher

It was a dark night when we arrived at a camp (later known as Camp Shoshanah) in the Adirondack Mountains. The cabins were falling apart, the mattresses on the beds were musty, the bathrooms were just a shade better than outhouses and seemingly held together by mold, the kitchen needed an extensive clean-up, and the mice were distressed at having their complete run of the place jeopardized. Here's how we got there.

Dan Rigney, Camp Director for Camp Sar Shalom—the children and teens camp of the American Board of Missions to the Jews (ABMJ; today called Chosen People Ministries)—organized a camping trip for teens along the eastern seaboard, from Virginia Beach, Virginia, up to Provincetown, Massachusetts. We would go to the boardwalk or into town in the evenings to distribute broadsides (amusing tracts that were easy and fun to read), sing Messianic music, or perform gospel street theater. It was a blast. Afterwards, we headed to the Adirondack Mountains for a week of training for teens and counselors before the regular Camp Sar Shalom for children was to begin. Dan had arranged for a young Messianic Jewish scholar, recently returned from Israel and then serving as Editorial Director for ABMJ, to teach that week of training. His name was Arnold Fruchtenbaum.



Dr. Michael Rydelnik (left) and Dr. Mitch Glaser (right), teaching side by side in 2000

"The Life of Messiah from a Jewish Perspective,"

"The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit."

Teachers and students sharing a meal

Camp 1983

Every week, students and teachers alike have the opportunity to showcase some extra-curricular talents to the public. In this picture: Michael Rydelnik performing a skit.

From left to right: Deborah and Mottel Baleston, Michael and Eva Rydelnik

Our first days at the camp were filled with cleaning the cabins and bathrooms, airing out the mattresses in the sunshine, and disinfecting the kitchen along with the pots, pans, and cooking utensils. Our personal cleanups were restricted to two-minute showers because there was limited hot water. Amazingly, we all enjoyed the work, likely because of the breathtaking beauty of the mountains around us and the joy that Dan instilled for serving God.

By Sunday, a number of young people from the New York metropolitan area joined us, and a group of around thirty-five young people began to study. In the mornings Arnold taught "The Life of Messiah from a Jewish Perspective," and in the evenings he taught "The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit." I had become a follower of Yeshua two years earlier, but never had I studied the Bible in this kind of profound and systematic way. My mind and heart were overwhelmed with the depth of Scripture, even as my hand cramped from taking notes.

My only contribution to the study time was in helping shape the evening sessions. I had been assigned to give my testimony at a round-robin Bible conference in Roanoke, Virginia, the previous spring. One night while driving with the speaker to Buena Vista, Virginia, in my conversation I prattled on with complete confidence and total ignorance about the person and work of the Holy Spirit. The conference speaker, Arnold, decided then and there that I needed more formal biblical education about the Holy Spirit, and that's how he chose his evening topic for camp. Thus, my input to the first camp was my own witless confusion.

Erev Shabbat Dinners

As I recall that first camp, my ultimate memory remains of the classes, but some other aspects of camp also remain in my mental scrapbook. For example, the first *Erev Shabbat* dinner lacked candlesticks for Shabbat candles. So, I went to the woods with my high school friend Georgy and my new friend Eva (today my wife of forty-eight years), picked up fallen branches of white birch trees, and together we made a candelabra, which remained in use for the first few years of camp.

Another memory is of sitting around one afternoon with Arnold and my new friend Mitch Glaser, who had just finished Bible college and was heading west to Talbot Seminary after camp. When the subject of "dispensationalism" came up, I stated categorically that I was not a *dispensationalist* because "I believe the whole Bible and don't *dispense* with any of it." What followed was Arnold and Mitch schooling me on the *sine qua non* (essentials) of dispensationalism, leading me to discover that I indeed was a dispensationalist.

First Steps to Becoming a Teacher

There are so many great memories of that first camp. One is of the rain falling so hard on the metal roof that Dan had to stand next to Arnold and shout his words just so we could hear the teaching. Others include hiking up the mountainside with a local pastor/forest ranger for a nature walk; giving out broadsides and sharing the good news in Lake Placid; driving to town with Dan and seeing a brown bear walking alongside the road; and having Arnold take me out for blueberry pie, cementing our life-long friendship. I vividly recall sitting around the main room late at night, singing Messianic music, dancing Israeli folk dances, laughing with old and new friends, and celebrating the joy of knowing Yeshua and learning God's Word.

The children came for their camp in the middle of August, but I had to leave while camp continued. I was starting college at Moody Bible Institute in Jewish Studies and had to attend orientation. But who knew that my first in-depth engagement with the Word of God would not be at Bible college but at the very first Camp Shoshanah?

Vincent Morgan

1975 – The Second Year of Camp Shoshanah

Vincent and Maryam Morgan's connection with Camp Shoshanah dates back to 1975. Since that pivotal year, they have consistently been steadfast supporters of the ministry, actively uniting numerous individuals for Bible study and fellowship in upstate New York.

Vincent Morgan in the 1970s

I first attended the sessions at what was to become Camp Shoshanah in the summer of 1975 at the invitation of Dan Rigney. That year, the camp session lasted two weeks. The teachers were Arnold Fruchtenbaum, Barry Leventhal, and Tim Timmons. Back then, the place was more rustic than it is now, and I stayed in a tent close to the current location of the playground. Although there were only a few restrooms, there were plenty of outhouses. Water was hauled in and pumped into a tank across Trout Pond Road, which was still dirt. The remains of an old hotel and numerous houses could be seen as you drove south on Trout Pond Road. One of them had a well that was still accessible. All classes were held in what was then the dining room. Dan Rigney was in charge of maintenance at the camp, ensuring that everyone had what they needed.

In the early years, the majority of the students were Jewish believers or Gentiles who served in Jewish ministries, which is how the Rigneys and I qualified to be there. During the 1970s, we both led Bible studies for Jewish people in different parts of Brooklyn, New York. There was one teenager who attended both of these Bible studies: Michael Rydelnik. We took him to camp that year, and he met Eva, a young lady who would later become his wife. Today, the Rydelniks live in Chicago, where Michael serves as the head of the Jewish Studies Department at Moody Bible Institute.

Also in attendance that year was Deborah Brautigam, who happened to live with my wife and me during this time. She later married another of our disciples, Mottel Baleston, who accepted Messiah in 1976. Mottel now teaches at the camp.

The new sign above the entrance to the campus is put up.

Others attending in 1975 were Avner Boskey from Montreal and Rachel Nelson from Pittsburgh, who now serve the Lord in Omer, Israel, just outside of Beersheva.

That year, Lura Maiman designed and made the signs that adorn the cabins and the camp entrance, while her husband Milt ran the sound and recorded cassettes for our future studies. I myself hung the signs over the entrance while standing on a step ladder mounted on a mattress on top of Dan Rigney's van! Yes, it was dangerous and frightening, but it worked. The sign is still up today!

Water Problems

The teaching at camp was excellent, and meaningful relationships were formed. However, that does not mean that everything was hunky-dory. The camp's water supply nearly ran dry that year, so Dan Rigney and I were tasked with reopening and refurbishing the old outhouses. We also dug a large reservoir where Haynie Hall now stands. The reservoir was lined with plastic and filled with water that was trucked in. People took "baths" in Trout Pond, bringing soap with them. Some of us decided to be "biblical" and grow beards.

Where Camp Went from There

Camp was originally intended for adults only, but as families formed, people wanted to bring their children. So, in the summer of 1979, my wife, Maryam, and I established the youth ministry. Two of our students were our own sons. The younger of the two, Joel, was three years old at the time, and he now runs the video and audio for the classes and edits videos for Ariel's YouTube channel and online classes.

In 1990, Russian Jews began to immigrate to the United States, and some of them knew my name and phone number. We were flooded with requests to teach the Bible and eventually established study groups in Brooklyn and Chicago. Arnold, Dan, and I soon realized that a Russian camp, similar to the English one, was required at the Shoshanah Campus. So, we opened a second three-week session in Russian. Our main translator, Pauline Jacob, was from Wales, but Dan and Arlene met her in Leningrad.

Many Russian-speaking Jews heard the gospel for the first time, and baptisms in the lake occurred often. Most of them came from New York and Chicago, though some also came from California. One year, we had to rent a school bus to transport them from the airport in New York City to Keeseville, New York.

The Russian campers discovered a large harvest of wild mushrooms on campus and couldn't understand why we didn't eat them. We Americans assumed that all mushrooms growing in the Adirondacks were poisonous, but the students insisted that they knew which ones were edible and that our kitchen crew cook with them. None of us got sick.

Interestingly, Arnold only remained a teacher in the Russian program for one year. Despite the fact that he was born in Russia, the people couldn't understand him, so Arnold was "freed up" to give lectures elsewhere. Dan Rigney and I were given the responsibility of teaching.

We eventually dropped the Russian camp program as the immigrants learned English, and the English program needed to be extended beyond three weeks.

The Story Goes On

Since 1975, we have sent or taken numerous people to camp. In 2022, for example, we took Tina Truong, a Vietnamese woman, for Labor Day weekend. Tina developed a close friendship with Molly Jacob, Arnold's first Bible teacher, while at camp. Since then, she has been asked to teach three different Vietnamese Bible studies via Zoom, presenting the Scriptures from a Messianic Jewish perspective, just as she was taught at the Shoshanah Campus. Hers is a story that we have witnessed over and over again. Believers, eager to delve deeper into God's Word, arrive at this unique place in the Adirondacks and leave profoundly changed. They take what they have learned and make it their own. They run with it and become multipliers of the only way I believe the Bible can be fully understood: from the Messianic Jewish perspective.

Vincent Morgan and his wife Maryam (left) with a friend

Teaching the Bible during Russian camp

Bible teacher Mottel Baleston

Mottel Baleston

From Dental Laboratory Technician to Bible Teacher

Many students who attended the Messianic Jewish Studies program at the Shoshanah Campus in the early years of its fifty-year history have gone on to become Bible teachers. One example is Mottel Baleston, who gave up a promising career to devote himself to Messianic ministry shortly after being introduced to Dr. Fruchtenbaum's teaching at Camp Shoshanah.

The summer of 1978 marked just two years since I had come to faith in Messiah Yeshua, having grown up in a Jewish home in New York City. I had been married for less than a year. My wife, Deborah, is also a Jewish believer in Messiah, and we were married in our early twenties. All of this happened quickly. I was working as a dental laboratory technician in New York, on an upward trajectory in my career. The man who had led me to faith, Vincent Morgan, suggested I use my week of summer vacation to attend Camp Shoshanah, run by Ariel Ministries. So, we did.

As we turned off the road that led from the nearest town toward camp, we found ourselves on a dirt road, which we traveled for the last three miles of our trip—not something a boy from New York City was expecting! Yet, when we arrived at camp, we heard many familiar New York Jewish accents with a sprinkling of Yiddish thrown in.

I had first heard Arnold Fruchtenbaum speak as the guest teacher at a New York City Messianic Bible study just months after I came to faith. Now the schedule called for five hours of Bible college-level teaching per day in a sweltering old cabin, in an era before air conditioning, cell phones, and the Internet. We loved it!

It was there that I met another Jewish believer, Milton Maiman, originally from Brooklyn like me, who with his wife, Lura, was going to take an early retirement and start a Messianic Jewish outreach center in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. As we heard their vision, we were convinced and told Milt that if I could find a position in my career field in that area, we would move and help with the startup since we were already leading worship and I was beginning to teach. God provided the exact career position to enable us to move.

After just nine months of volunteering to help get the Messianic Center ministry started and being inspired by what I had learned at camp, I looked at Deb and said, "What am I doing making dental crowns and bridges? I should be in full-time Messianic ministry!" I had been attending evening classes at a good evangelical Bible institute and reading the teaching manuscripts from Dr. Fruchtenbaum. We made an application with a mission agency now called "Missions Door," and they

Since 1998, Mottel Baleston has taught at the Shoshanah Campus every summer.

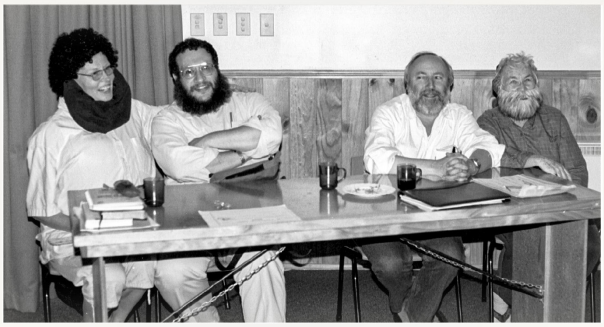
appointed us to full-time ministry with the understanding that we would continue our education.

So, when I next returned to Camp Shoshanah two years later, in the summer of 1980, it was as a newly minted full-time Messianic Jewish outreach worker. Deb and I quickly jumped into volunteering every summer at camp as we learned. We helped in the music ministry, and Deb served as the official assistant camp cook from 1981 through 1987. During those years, I also completed Bible college and quickly discovered that the biblical education I was getting at camp from the top-notch teaching staff was on par with or ahead of what I was getting at Bible college.

Each summer brought additional opportunities and responsibilities. Since 1998, I have taught at camp every summer, and much of the material I teach on our popular YouTube channel and in my seminars is based on biblical material that I originally learned from Dr. Fruchtenbaum and the other instructors at camp.

May God continue to expand the ministry of Camp Shoshanah until He comes for us!

Three of the best Messianic Bible teachers: Mottel Baleston, Arnold Fruchtenbaum, and Bob Morris



Impostors: Talent show holds many surprises...

Gifted couple

Deb making challah for Shabbat

Troy Willis Camp 1984

Troy Willis has been one of the veteran students of Camp Shoshanah from the mid-1980s onward. Since his first encounter with Ariel Ministries, Troy has exemplified an unwavering passion for Israel. This sentiment is powerfully conveyed even in his more recent teachings at New Life Community Church, his home church in California, that can be found online. In this article, he shares his experience as a first-time student at Camp Shoshanah.

My involvement with Ariel's Camp Shoshanah began in 1984. Back then, the cost to attend the study program for three weeks was only $150 plus working during non-class times. Arnold Fruchtenbaum, along with other teachers, opened up the Scriptures to me like no other teachers did at that time, even continuing through today.

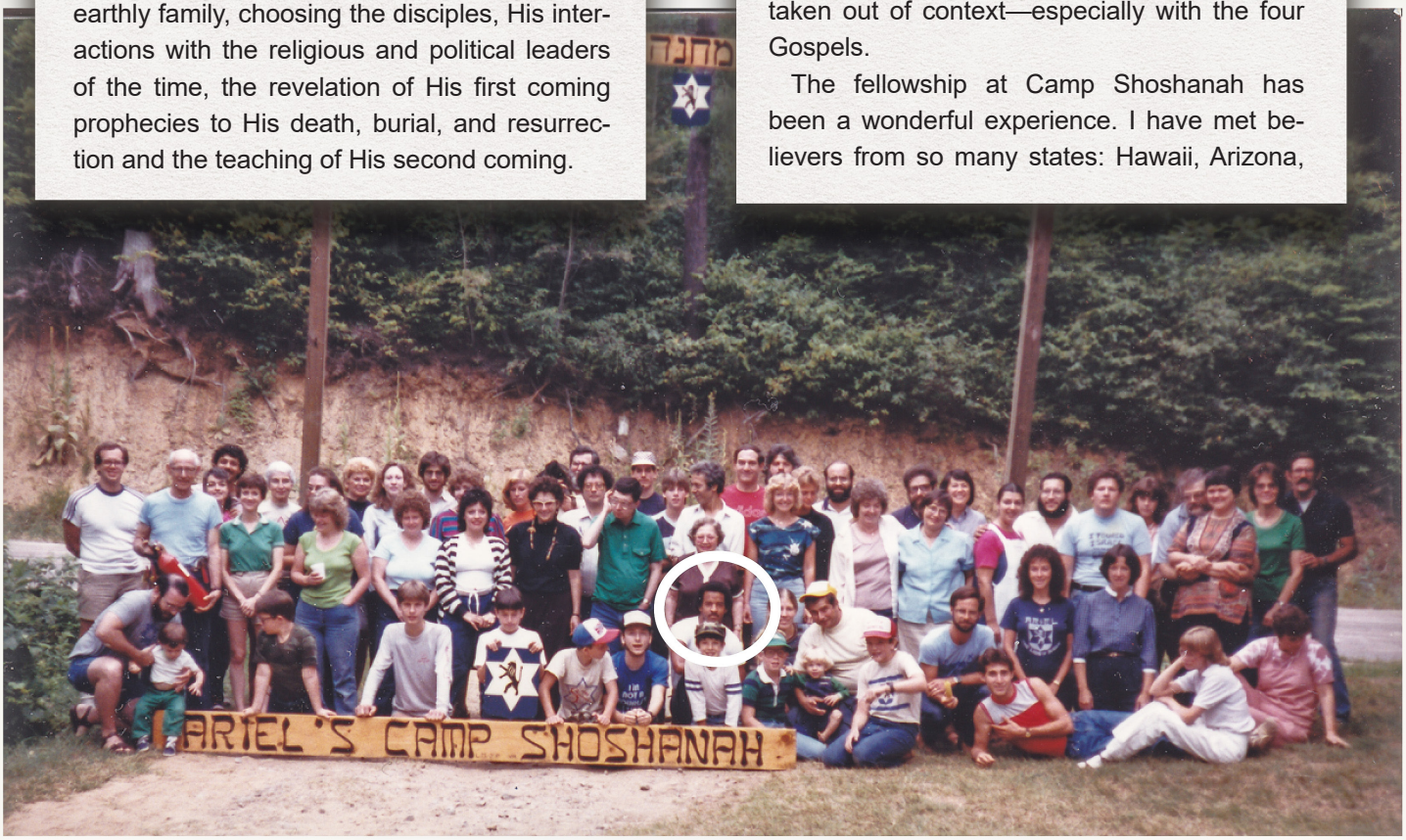
The most insightful class was "The Life of Messiah from a Messianic Jewish Perspective"—the perspective being that of first-century Judaism. Everything came together for me in the Gospel accounts: from Yeshua's infancy, His early childhood, His relationship with His earthly family, choosing the disciples, His interactions with the religious and political leaders of the time, the revelation of His first coming prophecies to His death, burial, and resurrection and the teaching of His second coming.

Other classes that caused me to grow deeper in faith and trust in the reliability of the Scriptures dealt with the books of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, all the Minor Prophets, Galatians, Acts, Hebrews, and so forth. I also enjoyed the study of Jewish history and hermeneutics.

Lifelong Impact

Without learning the Scriptures from the Jewish context, I have no doubt that I would not be walking with my Lord Jesus today simply because, much of the time, in the vast majority of Gentile churches, all that the believers receive is a little drop of baby milk mixed with verses taken out of context—especially with the four Gospels.

The fellowship at Camp Shoshanah has been a wonderful experience. I have met believers from so many states: Hawaii, Arizona,



Troy Willis's first year at the Shoshanah campus was 1984.

Troy Willis and Mary Ann Fruchtenbaum poring over some pictures

Troy Willis and his wife came back to the campus in 2023.

Coffee break between classes, 1984

New Mexico, Alabama, Washington, Oregon, and a host of others. The most interesting are my brothers and sisters from New York City. Every Sunday evening, the students have to answer five questions during orientation:

1. What's your name?
2. Where were you born the first time?
3. Where were you born the second time?
4. Where do you live now?
5. What do you do?

My brothers and sisters from New York were always very specific as to which part of the city they came from: Queens, Bronx, Manhattan, Brooklyn, etc.

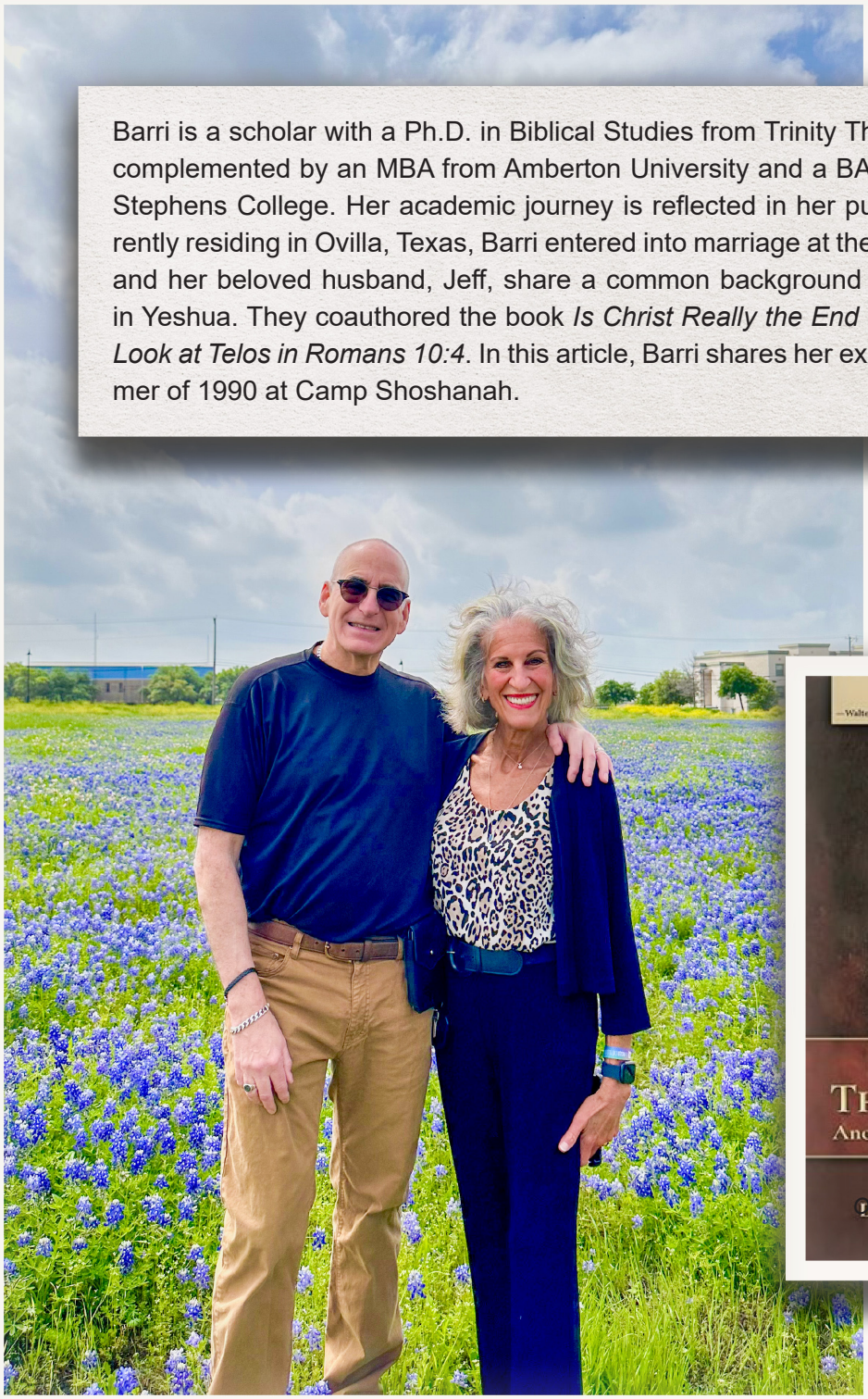
More amazing, however, is the work that Messiah has done in bringing other believers from Israel, Japan, Costa Rica, Mexico, Italy, Germany, Liberia, and other countries that I can't recall. Because of the sound biblical teaching they receive at camp, many people from many nations come together as one in Messiah to hear His Word. Indeed, I have gotten a little taste of heaven on earth at the camp, where every nation, tongue, and tribe will come to worship and learn of the Lord. Fellowship in this form can only be brought about by the teaching of sound biblical truth.

I will sum up my camp experience like this: God has blessed and continues to bless me with solid Bible studies from Dr. Fruchtenbaum. I often use Arnold's outlines and teachings to expose others to the truth of God's work from a Messianic Jewish perspective. It has been a blessing to witness both Jews and Gentiles learning this. It has indeed sustained me in my times of weakness and compromise. It has allowed me to stand boldly for the truth because the knowledge of the truth of His Word is in my heart and mind. Indeed, God's Word has become *a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path* (Ps. 119:105).

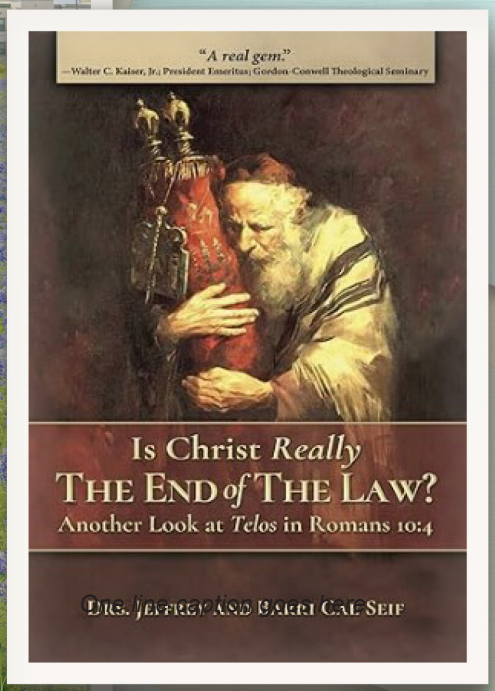
Dr. Barri Cae Seif

The Summer of 1990

Barri is a scholar with a Ph.D. in Biblical Studies from Trinity Theological Seminary, complemented by an MBA from Amberton University and a BA in Psychology from Stephens College. Her academic journey is reflected in her published works. Currently residing in Ovilla, Texas, Barri entered into marriage at the age of 62. Both she and her beloved husband, Jeff, share a common background as Jewish believers in Yeshua. They coauthored the book *Is Christ Really the End of the Law? Another Look at Telos in Romans 10:4*. In this article, Barri shares her experience of the summer of 1990 at Camp Shoshanah.



Drs. Jeffrey and Barri Cae Seif



The couple's book

I had the honor of attending Camp Shoshanah in the summer of 1990. I learned about the camp and Arnold from one of my spiritual dads, Barry Leventhal. I lived in Shreveport, Louisiana, at the time, and I was a bit geographically challenged. Getting to camp was difficult. However, after three flights and a ferry ride, I arrived at the facility. Unfortunately, my suitcase did not make it. Back then, we had to bring our own bedding, so the missing suitcase presented a challenge. I was so relieved when other participants lent me a bedroll, sheets, etc.

We had great sessions replete with hearty worship and teaching. I remember Barry's many teachings. In addition to the morning sessions, all first-timers were expected to attend Arnold's afternoon course, "The Life of Messiah." I learned so much from these classes!

There were people from different parts of the United States and the world, even some New Zealand Kiwis. We had a session called "Stump the Frucht," where we would ask Arnold a question in order to stump him. Nobody could!

The one challenge for the week, however, was the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq. I had a hard time sleeping at camp, and after four sleepless nights, I asked a friend to take me to a local motel. When I woke up the next morning, I turned on the TV and learned the news of the invasion. At camp, no one believed me, but eventually, they too learned that, yes, war was impending. Thankfully, the news did not affect any of the activities: the camp, the learning, the worship, or the fun. I was forever changed and blessed through my attendance at Camp Shoshanah and through my association with Arnold, Barry, Mottel, and some of the other teachers.

One of the teachers in 1990: Dr. Barry Leventhal

Worship at the beach of Trout Pond

Group pictures have been a tradition at the Shoshanah Campus.

Robert Morris

A Teacher's Testimony

Robert ("Bob") Morris has been a teacher at the Shoshanah Campus for decades.

Robert Morris, the founder and director of HaDavar Messianic Ministries, recounts his journey in this article, detailing his introduction to Dr. Fruchtenbaum and the testing that led him to become one of Camp Shoshanah's most esteemed teachers.

I came to faith in Yeshua alone in my bedroom during my sophomore year of college. I had read a tract and experienced the witnessing of a campus missionary and a campus student group. From that point on, I experienced a growing desire to understand the Bible.

After a stint in the Army, I married. My wife and I began to attend church and were baptized. I joined a weekly men's Bible study. There, I realized that the Bible was a Jewish book, and because I was Jewish, the Bible was my book. For the first time, I embraced my Jewishness.

I met Arnold Fruchtenbaum when he spoke at our church. Arnold answered my questions, affirmed my Jewishness, and opened my eyes to the importance of Jewish outreach. I began to study Ariel's radio manuscripts as well as attend services and adult education classes at a local synagogue to catch up on my heritage.

Eventually, God led me to start Ariel Ministries' first volunteer Beth Ariel Center and gave me the desire to work full-time as a missionary with the ministry. God provided the resources I needed to attend seminary, which was Ariel's requirement for full-time service. I earned a Master of Divinity degree in Jewish Studies.

Bob Morris with Dr. Fruchtenbaum and Mottel Baleston in ca. 2019

"Golden Rule of Interpretation"

Being Tested to Become a Teacher

Upon graduating from university, I joined the Ariel staff full time. I helped plant a Messianic congregation and began attending Ariel's Camp Shoshanah. Because I was on staff, I was expected to participate as an instructor. The first class I taught was "Messiah and the Tabernacle," which I later learned was not part of the five-year rotating curriculum but was a test of my teaching approach and skills. When Arnold assigned regular classes to me, I knew I had passed the test.

Attending and teaching at Camp is a privilege. I was and still am amazed when I stand at the same lectern as Dr. Fruchtenbaum, Dr. Barry Leventhal, Dr. Greg Hagg, and others.

Another privilege has been to experience Arnold's God-given skill at connecting Scripture's varied themes into a coherent whole that is unique, clear, accurate, in depth, and consistent. Arnold recognizes that every book of Scripture, because God was the author, received the same authority and importance. Camp also introduced me to the "Golden Rule of Interpretation," which I have used in my own studies and passed on to my students.

Camp's atmosphere has impressed me. I have felt at home among men and women who love the Bible, love to study it, and love to informally discuss it. The teachers' scholarship has also impressed me due to their depth of knowledge and clarity of presentation.

Camp has grown and matured since the old days of the dining room/lecture hall, the men's and women's dormitories, bare-bones cabins, porta-potties, and a common washhouse. But the quality of the teaching and of the students remains the same. I am grateful to have been part of Camp as an instructor for approximately fifteen seasons.

Bob Morris just before reciting the Hamotzi and breaking the bread

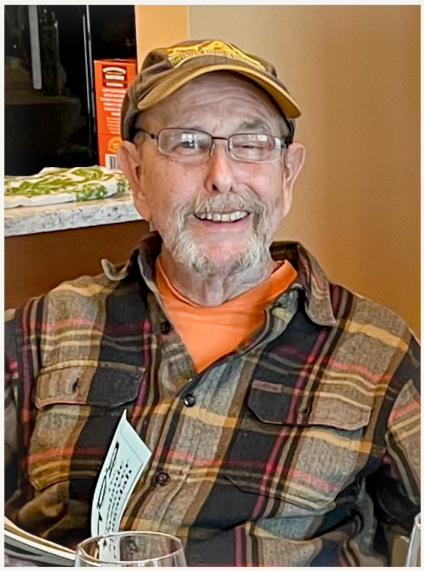
Teachers and students sharing a meal at the Shoshanah Campus

Bob Morris and friends at the Shoshanah Campus

Jeff Kramer

How Camp Shoshanah Helped Equip Me for Ministry

Jeff Kramer became a missionary for Chosen People Ministries after studying the Scriptures under Dr. Fruchtenbaum and other teachers at the Shoshanah Campus. Here is his moving story.



Jeff Kramer at his home in the Catskills, 2024

As I look back on my life, I can see the many times that Yeshua was knocking at my door. I didn't answer, but He kept on knocking. I was a child of the sixties when sex, drugs, and rock & roll ruled. However, there was another side to this period. For many, the sixties included an intense inward search as well as going outside the normal limits of consciousness into the spiritual realm. I was one of them. Throughout the sixties and seventies and into the eighties, I researched Buddhism, Islam, and much Eastern philosophy. Many of these disciplines were interesting, but none of them transformed me.

One day, I met a Jewish evangelist. From my upbringing and Jewish training, I figured him to be at best very confused. However, he had a glowing love for me and others and for this Jesus whom he called God. This stranger set up a Bible study at a time and place customized for me. I resisted him every step of the way. Still, I began to study the Bible with him and always left the meetings with a smile on my face.

Eventually, this evangelist introduced me to a charismatic congregation, where I thought the people were crazy, perhaps let out from a sanitarium. It was also a church. As a Jew, I didn't feel like I belonged in a church. Yet the evangelist didn't give up on me. I needed something Jewish. So, he introduced me to a Messianic Jewish congregation, which led me to attend a Messianic conference. At the conference, one workshop, called "The Holy Spirit," had so many attendees that it was held in a large gymnasium. I opened the door and saw no teacher and no lesson, just hundreds of people wailing and speaking, praying to God. I credit God for keeping me in this room, for I wanted to bolt from this seeming insanity! Instead, I stayed and sat down in a corner. Strangely enough, within minutes, I found myself hysterically crying and telling God how disgusting and sinful I was. Although I was sure that this was a heavenly encounter, I was totally confused about why God would care about me when I rightly deserved to be rejected. I told God that He didn't really want me. Yet all I felt from Him was total love and acceptance. Wow! Nothing made sense, but I knew the answer was to be found in the Scriptures.

The Transforming Power of the Messianic Perspective

At this point, another door opened. A fellow congregant told me about a Messianic Jewish Bible study program called "Camp Shoshanah." I believe it was around 1990 when I first attended that program and met Arnold Fruchtenbaum. Arnold gave a class called "The Life of Messiah," and this study transformed my life. All the other teachers at Camp Shoshanah added to my understanding, and finally, Christianity made sense. I could now see its true Jewish connection and context. I had searched for truth throughout the whole world with its many religions and peoples, only to find it in the God who had always been in plain sight, found coming from my own religion, from my own people.

From Student to Teacher

I sat under Dr. Fruchtenbaum's teachings for over a decade of summers. In 1998, I met my wife at a Passover Seder sponsored by Chosen People Ministries (CPM). Later, the president of CPM asked me to lead a Bible study on the book of Genesis at the CPM Manhattan office. I felt inept but remembered the closing verse of the book of Matthew, where Yeshua told His followers to make disciples of all nations, teaching them to follow all that He commanded. I also remembered how He promised to be with us always (Mt. 28:20). By God's grace and with the help of Dr. Fruchtenbaum's teachings, I began my Bible teaching career.

I came on staff with Chosen People Ministries as a part-time missionary. About a year later, my wife and I became an integral part of a core group that helped CPM plant a Messianic congregation in Manhattan, a borough highly populated with Jewish people in New York City.

When Chosen People Ministries started The Feinberg Center for Messianic Jewish Studies, a satellite campus for Talbot Seminary, I jumped at the opportunity to learn even more. Dr. Fruchtenbaum and the many lecture classes at Camp Shoshanah had ignited a fascination with the Scriptures within me. This made me desire to delve even deeper into biblical studies. After eleven years of part-time study, I graduated with a Master of Divinity in 2018.

Gratitude

My unique education in Messianic studies that started at Camp Shoshanah has given me many opportunities to teach in churches about Christianity's deep roots in biblical Judaism. I have taught many Bible studies, preached many sermons, and was even an interim Messianic rabbi for our New York congregation for a year and a half. I have produced a few Scripture-based one-act plays and hope to continue to write plays and teach Bible studies for many years to come.

As I look back, I realize that my understanding of the Scriptures really started with Dr. Fruchtenbaum at Camp Shoshanah. I realize now that he and others have invested in me so that I could invest in others. I want to thank God for bringing me to faith and discipling me through the teachers at Camp Shoshanah, a place where biblical principles are taught, countering a world that trusts in man rather than in God. I want to thank Arnold Fruchtenbaum and Ariel Ministries for conceiving of and creating Camp Shoshanah as a teaching retreat center where many lives have been transformed for the Lord and where Jewish and Gentile believers can study our risen Messiah together. I pray for your continued ministry in the training of a new generation. Blessings!

Jeff Kramer and his lovely bride, Deborah

Dr. Michael Gabizon

The Circle Has Closed

In this article, Michael Gabizon, an accomplished speaker and published author with a Ph.D. in Religious Studies from McMaster University, traces his beginnings back to Ariel's Bible school at the Shoshanah Campus. As the youngest son of Jacques Isaac Gabizon, leader of Ariel Canada's branch, Michael reflects on the formative experiences he garnered during the more than twenty summers he spent at the camp.

Two Messianic couples in ministry

Early Years

From my earliest memories, Camp Shoshanah had been my second home. I was two when my siblings and I were first brought to Camp Shoshanah, and from that year on, we attended the three-week program every summer. While I had opportunities to attend other Bible camps throughout my youth, the spiritual formation and growth that I experienced at Camp Shoshanah have remained unparalleled. There are several distinctive characteristics about this summer program that have made it a very enriching experience.

Messianic Jewish Program

First, Camp was one of the few Messianic Jewish programs available for kids my age when I was growing up. Being from a small Messianic community in Montreal posed challenges for me as I attempted to navigate my own identity as a Jewish believer in Jesus.

Any articulation of my beliefs and heritage was often met with skepticism or ridicule. I was frequently told that I could not be Jewish *and* believe in Jesus. While the discourse around Messianic Jews and identity has evolved since the early 2000s, Camp Shoshanah remained an important haven for me to cultivate and express my Jewish identity *while* embracing faith in the Jewish Messiah.

Considering this unique function, Camp Shoshanah allotted me the opportunity to connect with peers from all over the world who shared a similar background and belief. By surrounding myself with like-minded believers, many of whom I am still in contact with to this day, I was able to establish a support network during my formative years.

Second, Camp Shoshanah is unique for its strong emphasis on biblical teaching. The children's program generally mirrors the adult curriculum, offering hours of interactive and thought-provoking classes for kids and teenagers. During my time there, we explored important topics such as Messianic prophecies, biblical covenants, and eschatology.

Not only did this create a desire to study biblical and Messianic Jewish theology, but it also provided a young generation of believers with firm roots in theology, permitting us to build a more substantial faith. The teaching staff in the children's program played a significant role in fostering an environment of critical thinking, thereby enriching the quality of our classes.

Another significant, albeit understated, benefit of Camp Shoshanah is its function as a family camp. While children and teenagers naturally gravitate towards peers, the impact of my interactions with adult believers on my spiritual journey cannot be overstated.

Michael Gabizon surrounded by other excellent Bible teachers

Throughout my years at camp, I have had opportunities to engage in meaningful dialogue with mature believers. Whether it was during the daily men's prayer meetings or in the relaxed atmosphere after evening classes, I have profited from many thought-provoking conversations. During meals, I sometimes sat with teachers, asking about theology and drawing from their wisdom.

One pivotal moment was in 2008, when I considered pursuing a Jewish Studies degree at Moody Bible Institute in Chicago. Dan Rigney, a long-time missionary with Ariel Ministries, not only encouraged me in this endeavor but also reached out to Dr. Michael Rydelnik, who was the program director at the time. I recall bringing my application to the men's prayer meeting, where we sought the Lord's guidance together. A few months later, I enrolled in the program.

It is often said that we become the average of the five people closest to us. At Camp Shoshanah, being surrounded by people dedicated to the Lord and committed to spiritual growth created a very enriching environment.

Ministry Launch

Camp Shoshanah not only served as a training ground but also as a launching pad for my ministry endeavors. One requirement in the Jewish Studies program at Moody Bible Institute was to complete an internship. I decided to do mine at Camp Shoshanah in 2009, where I was given the opportunity to teach in the youth program, lead worship, and conduct devotions. The experience that summer solidified my passion for teaching and confirmed my call to ministry.

In 2010, I joined the staff of Ariel Ministries. My wife and I assumed leadership roles in the youth and worship programs at Camp Shoshanah for several consecutive summers. Even in my capacity as a staff member, Camp remained a catalyst for growth as I connected with new people and had the privilege of mentoring the next generation of believers.

Returning to the Roots

Our final summer working at Camp Shoshanah was in 2015. That fall, I began my Ph.D. program at McMaster University, and with our growing family, we had to relinquish our responsibilities. However, after eight years, we were finally able to return to the summer program in 2023, now as a family of six.

On the one hand, it felt like a long-awaited family reunion, affording me the chance to reconnect with many of the mentors and teachers who had profoundly impacted my life. On the other hand, it was remarkable to witness the changes and developments that had taken place at the camp.

Although we were only able to spend one week there, my children have been adamant that they want to return to the summer program. Not only did they enjoy their relationships with the teachers and staff, but they also learned important content from the book of Revelation, which they continue to talk about to this day. I am grateful for the enduring legacy and ongoing impact of Camp Shoshanah.

In a world often devoid of critical thinking and genuine connection, the significance of a family-oriented camp like Camp Shoshanah is invaluable.

Michael Gabizon and his wife Hannah leading worship

Jackie Fierman

A Change of Heart

Ariel Canada and others in 2010

Ariel Ministries has branches in ten countries, one of which is Canada. This branch is led by Jacques Isaac Gabizon, the founder of a Messianic congregation in Montreal called "Beth Ariel." The primary missionary for this Canadian branch is Jackie Fierman, who shares a touching narrative of repentance, forgiveness, and a fresh start in this article.

Jackie Fierman with Arlene Rigney

The Canadian contingent

Cookout at the beach

I became a believer in the mid-1970s and quickly found that there were only congregations without good doctrine concerning Messianic practice and beliefs. It was discouraging, but I knew there would be more Jewish believers like me in heaven. Two books had encouraged me in 1978, *Jesus Was a Jew* and *Hebrew Christianity* (now *The Remnant*), both of them written by a certain Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum. After twenty years in the faith, I gave up entirely on finding anyone else who understood who I was. I was happy enough to stay in Gentile settings with good doctrine.

When people would say to me that I should be involved in Jewish ministry, I would always answer, "I have been rejected quite enough, thank you. Let someone else do it." That changed after meeting Dr. Fruchtenbaum and Jacques Isaac Gabizon in October of 2003. At the time, I was serving as a missionary in Quebec City. After meeting Jacques Isaac, I began driving the three hours to Montreal every month or so to visit the congregation there. It had been founded by J. Isaac, who also served as the leader of Ariel Ministries' branch in Canada.

The night she met me, Jacques Isaac's wife, Sharon, spoke to me about Camp Shoshanah and then continually encouraged me to go. I did not have the funds. She began to pray to that end and would always ask me if the money I needed had come in. It was only $200 for one week, but she thought I should go for two weeks. Months passed.

An elderly woman who used to always send in a gift at the end of the year stopped giving that year because she wanted to support her grandchildren. I had lived with her while attending seminary in Chicago, and she basically gave me free rent. Suddenly, in April of 2004, she sent in a gift for me. Exactly $200! This time, I had a different answer for Sharon, who was elated. She immediately said to apply for a scholarship for the remaining $200. It wasn't long before I got word that I was accepted.

Unresolved Bitterness

I went to Camp quite leery of Ariel Ministries. Every other Messianic group or individual I had met in twenty-nine years after leaving my hometown of St. Louis was either trying to observe the Torah or push charismatic practices to which I did not hold. Some groups had both issues. I went to Camp expecting to find their doctrinal weakness within four days at most and leave to go back to Quebec City. I was sure I'd find one.

When I arrived at Camp, I met four German women, including an elderly sister who I drove to Camp from Montreal. She had been alive during the Holocaust. Begrudgingly, I accepted to share a semi-private space with her in the women's dorm because it would be quieter than in the larger area where most of the women were. I soon realized that I was still harboring resentment and bitterness from all the anti-German teaching I had received in synagogue, although I thought I had repented of these attitudes in 1976 when I saw *The Hiding Place*.

One day, Sharon asked me to drive one of the German women to town for an important errand at the bank. I yielded and agreed to take her. On the way, the German sister innocently asked me if I had ever visited Germany. Scowling and growling, I answered, "I would **never** go there!" It was as if I heard the Lord say to me, "Look at your wounded sister." I turned and saw the hurt look on her face. Right away, I knew I had to deal with the problem.

While she was at the bank, I confessed my sin to the Lord and asked Him to help me forgive what had happened to my people in the Holocaust. I did not want any bitterness, especially toward believing brothers and sisters. I admitted my helplessness to pull out the deep root but asked Him to do it. I did not want to ask this sister for forgiveness until she had actually seen the repentance in my way of acting.

The very next morning, I went to hear Dr. Fruchtenbaum teach from Isaiah again. Every day, I had questions for him following one class or another. I was sure I could corner him with a doctrinal question. He patiently answered each one, and I kept going back to class to find a hitch in his theology. During that Isaiah class, it became crystal clear that I had found a wholesome group with good doctrine. It was like the scales fell off of my eyes. It really existed! After class, I walked forward as usual to speak to Dr. Fruchtenbaum but this time without my notebook and Bible. I simply asked him, "Where do I start?" He seemed to understand that I had finally come around. The fight was gone. He pointed to *The Footsteps of the Messiah* and said, "Read this." I just nodded and walked back to my seat.

I am totally convinced that I would never have seen clearly if I had not repented of my sinful attitudes toward everything German.

Anonymous Donation

I found new joy in my conversations with other campers and in class. I realized that I wanted to stay for the full three weeks. Before long, I decided to go to the office and reserve a place by faith, with no money. Just as I was heading out of the cabin, there was an announcement made for me to go to the camp office. I knew that either a family tragedy had occurred or else God had funds for that third week.

Out of breath as I arrived on the run to the office, Dan Rigney was waiting for me in the doorway. He used to act as a gentle chaplain to all. He said, "Jackie, do you know God as *Jehovah Jireh*?" I burst into tears, knowing that God had provided for that third week. He said it was donated anonymously. I was thrilled!

During that third week, I realized who I actually was and what I was born to do: teach the Word in a Jewish context. In thinking about the next year of the women's study that I had been doing for over a decade, I knew I needed to make a big change in the study material. I began asking advice from a few people at Camp. Everyone said to teach Dr. Fruchtenbaum's "Life of Messiah" course. So the following month, that is what I began to teach in French.

Invitation to Join

After four months, the Gabizons invited me to join Ariel Canada. It was the easiest decision I had ever made.

After that year, I taught the feasts of Israel, the eight covenants, and the dispensations. Then I taught *Footsteps* for two years, all in French. During that time, I began traveling for the ministry and teaching in eastern Canada and then in the west.

In 2008, I moved to Montreal, where I have been living ever since. I have become active in the evangelistic outreaches and have such excitement going door to door in Jewish neighborhoods and in shopping center parking lots. Jewish ministry has become the joy of my life as I evangelize and teach the Word. Camp is the place where my entire life was transformed forever.

Jackie hugging a German

Paolo & Martina Speciale

The Birth of Ariel Italy

The ten international branches of Ariel Ministries operate with a high degree of independence, resulting in significant variation among them. The only commonality may be the fact that all branch representatives have, at some point, attended Ariel's School of Messianic Jewish Studies at the Shoshanah Campus. In some instances, the idea to establish a branch was even born there. Such was the case for Paolo and Martina Speciale, the leaders of Ariel Italy. In this article, Paolo tells their story.

Paolo Speciale and his family at the Shoshanah Campus in 2023

Camp Shoshanah has a special place in our hearts because that's where Ariel Italy was conceived in the summer of 2019. We had already translated *The Footsteps of the Messiah* and various manuscripts into Italian and had met Dr. Fruchtenbaum in person in Italy in 2018. We asked him to come to our country for a series of conferences, and he came!

We would have loved to have kept him in Italy, but since that was not possible, we decided to pray and ask the Lord to give us the chance to go to Camp Shoshanah. It was not humanly possible because we had just ended a very long period of unemployment. Yet the Lord wanted us there, and He made it possible. He didn't give us extra money, but He taught us how to steward the funds. So, we invested all that we had into our participation in Camp Shoshanah 2019. My wife and the kids spent six weeks there, and I was able to join them for one week. Dr. Fruchtenbaum was teaching his "Life of Messiah" course. My English is not great, but the Lord helped me understand what was important.

One day, Martina and I met with Arnold and talked to him about the idea of establishing an Italian branch of Ariel Ministries. Arnold replied, "If you are willing, I would love to have you represent us in Italy." We entered the conference room empty-handed, and we came out with all the necessary forms to fill out. He had all the paperwork ready. That's why Camp Shoshanah has a special place in our hearts. It is where the Lord chose to write the beginning of our official story with Ariel Ministries!

Camp Shoshanah is not your regular summer camp, where you spend most of your time in fellowship with others and study very little. It's the opposite. You study most of the time, and if you still have enough energy, you spend time with others! That is what makes this place unique in the world. People go there because they want to grow in the Lord, and they

come back home with friends that will come alongside them for the rest of their lives. They find brothers and sisters with whom they can share their passion for the Lord. These are people from all over the world, with different cultures but the same desire to learn, love, and serve the Lord. They study, dance, laugh, pray, and taste together what heaven will look like.

For us "newcomers," who got to know Ariel Ministries more recently, Camp Shoshanah is the place where past, present, and future meet. We have read so many stories about Burl Haynie, Miss Ruth Wardell, and Dan and Arlene Rigney, but we didn't have the privilege to meet them. Here we get to know more about them, meet their friends, and learn about their passion and vision for the ministry. Here we pass the place where Arnold first met Mary Ann and fell in love with her. Here is the place where we have become part of the story.

Some things might have changed in the last fifty years. New houses have been built. Air conditioning and internet connections have been installed. Other things have stayed the same, with the true passion for the Word of God, the Lord Yeshua, and His people being the most important. What a wonderful legacy to treasure and keep alive for the glory of our Father! We couldn't be happier to be a part of it. We pray that one day our children will bring their children here to the Shoshanah Campus to study hard and grow strong in the Lord.

Paolo and Martina with Mottel Baleston

Teaching session after dinner

The lecture hall

Weather permitting, weekend dinners are held on the beach.

David & Danielle Tamala

From Students to Branch

Ariel Ministries' newest branch was established this year in Hawaii. Following the pattern set by numerous other branches, the journey began with an initial God-led encounter with Dr. Fruchtenbaum followed by a pivotal step taken at the Shoshanah Campus. Danielle and David Tamala share their story.

Danielle and David Tamala with Mottel Baleston in 2023

The Tamalas and Dennis Shatto leading worship during Shabbat dinner

We met Dr. Fruchtenbaum in 1995 and began studying under him every spring for the three months he spent in the Hawaiian Islands. We attended all of his meetings at the hosting churches, took his classes at International Bible College, and joined his Friday evening home Bible studies. In 2004, we decided to visit Ariel's School of Messianic Jewish Studies at the Shoshanah Campus. This was going to be the first time we would be able to study under other Messianic Bible teachers in addition to Dr. Fruchtenbaum. It was also the first time we were on the East Coast. Additionally, our children were school-aged, and we had never been apart for more than a day or two. Despite all of these "firsts," our time at the school was amazing.

Back then, camp was very rustic, making the experience even more memorable. It also allowed us to appreciate all the challenging work that has gone into the upgrades over the last twenty years. We met people from around the world, both Jews and Gentiles, who are now family through eternity.

After that first visit to camp, eight years passed before we were able to return to camp, this time with our youngest daughter, Makana'okalani, who

Special place of honor on Shabbat

Dinnertime

Students from Hawaii

was a junior in high school and was still praying about what she wanted to do after she graduated.

So many changes had taken place at camp! The biggest was the dining hall, and all the grading to the landscape made movement to and from the cabins and the lecture hall so much easier. Our lives in the Tamala household had changed as well. We had adopted four medically fragile children and had taken in another four young ladies who needed help in various areas, from houselessness to immigration. The common denominator was that they all needed a loving father who was present in their lives and the safety of a family that they could trust. We also started a Messianic congregation, *Ka Hale O HaMashiach* (“The House of the Messiah”). Our focus back then was to support Israel by hosting Israeli travelers through the organization H.I.T. and hosting Israeli dignitaries on travel to Hawaii, such as the mayor of Tel Aviv, Ron Huldai; the Israeli ambassador to the United Nations, Ron Prosor; and the former governor of Hawaii and first Jewish governor of Hawaii, Linda Lingle.

As our congregation grew over the years, it allowed us to be able to travel again without having to shut down our worship service when we did. We were able to spend more time at camp and participate in serving there in some capacity.

In 2024, we will return to camp not only as students but also as the Ariel Hawaii branch. We will bring with us our daughter Makana’okalani and her husband, Cristofer Lloyd, who not only pastors his own congregation, called The Meeting Ground, but also serves on our branch’s Board of Directors. Being able to spend time with our friends and now sharing with our children the abundance of experience that only Ariel’s Bible school at the Shoshanah Campus can give, we earnestly look forward to our arrival this summer!

Danielle Tamala presenting a Hawaiian worship dance

Anja Vaughan

A Long-Lasting Desire to Return

Time and time again, we hear testimonies of the impact that Ariel's School of Messianic Jewish Studies on the Shoshanah Campus has on its students. A recurring theme is the enduring desire of many to return. The story of Anja Vaughan serves as a poignant illustration of this profound yearning.

Anja Vaughan (right) and friends

First Camp Shoshanah. Now Shoshanah Campus. Two names, one wonderful place! I first attended Camp Shoshanah in July of 1999, and it has become one of my most favorite places in the world. God worked in amazing ways to connect me, originally from Germany, with Dr. Fruchtenbaum and Ariel Ministries, especially the ministry at Camp Shoshanah.

After coming to faith in Messiah Jesus as a teenager, I had not been exposed to much of any Bible teaching until I met a very strong believer who encouraged me to attend Bible school. I left my job in Germany to attend Ravencrest Chalet, a member of Torchbearers International, in Estes Park, Colorado. Why I chose to study the Bible in the United States remains another story, but the Lord's hand definitely led the way.

One of the classes of the fall semester was titled "The Feasts of Israel," taught by a Messianic Jewish teacher (not until much later did I find out that he had used Arnold's material). I very much loved the class and devoured the new information. Another teacher told me that if I loved this class, I should just wait until Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum would come in the spring to teach "Highlights of the Life of Messiah from a Messianic Jewish Perspective." Needless to say, I was excited and looked forward to his teaching. His course became one of my favorite classes while at Ravencrest Chalet. I had a hunger to learn and understand more about the Jewish perspective. I learned a completely new way of looking at the Gospels, as the rabbinic background shed so much new light on all these familiar passages.

To this day, my favorite example remains the conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus (Jn. 3:1-21) because it illustrates well how knowing the rabbinic background will explain so much of what happened in the Gospels and will make them so much more alive and exciting. It stands out to me that Nicodemus did not ask "How can I be born again?" but he asked "How can I be born again *when I am old*?" As a Pharisee, he knew the rabbinic teaching very well, which allows for six ways of being born again.[2] Four ways applied to him, and at this point in his life, he had been born again four times already and was now considered old. He did not know of any more ways to be born again since he had used all the options available to him.

From Israel to Camp Shoshanah

When I found out about Dr. Fruchtenbaum's Israel tours, I signed up for the next one he would conduct. Through it, my whole Bible came alive since I highlighted every place in my Bible that we visited. I truly saw the land and those who dwell therein. The following year, I just had to go to Camp Shoshanah. I was very eager to spend in-depth time in the Word, learning and understanding more and more about the Scriptures in general and especially the Word from the Messianic Jewish perspective. Back then, I attended camp a total of four times, always eager to learn more and eager for the very special fellowship.

After I married an American citizen, I moved to the United States and we started our family. It became difficult to make going to camp work, but Camp Shoshanah always stayed near and dear to my heart in all those years when I wished every summer I could attend and study under Dr. Fruchtenbaum and the other amazing teachers once more.

In 2023, God made it possible once again for me to attend Camp Shoshanah. It was such a joy to finally be able to return and see all the changes and new buildings for myself and immerse myself in in-depth studies of God's Word from the Messianic Jewish perspective! I had surely missed these deep, verse-by-verse Bible classes. In my weeks at camp, I soaked up the deep teaching and enjoyed being able to just be a student again.

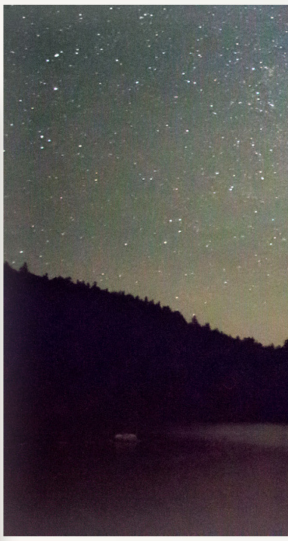
The wonderful fellowship and like-mindedness between believers from different backgrounds and even different countries also stand out at Camp Shoshanah. We all come with the same desire to learn and grow and the same love for Israel and the Jewish people. The encounters and friendships with the other students have blessed me tremendously and filled my heart. So many fellow students shared their love, kindness, and joy with me as they lived out a lifestyle of humility, thankfulness, generosity, and care for others. To be at camp is to be blessed, refreshed, and enriched in more ways than one! What I still have to get used to remains the new name: Shoshanah Campus.

Dr. Paul Miles

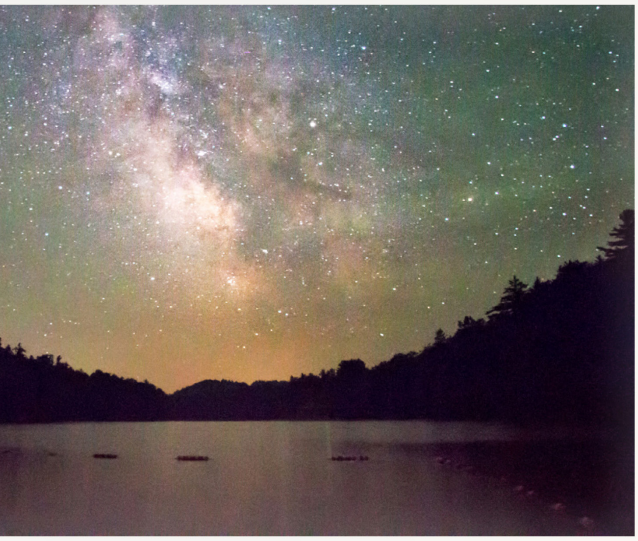
From Student to Teacher

For the past fifty years, Ariel's School of Messianic Jewish Studies on the Shoshanah Campus has provided a "breeding ground" for people who have gone on to serve in ministry. Other attendees were already involved in ministry and were recruited as new teachers once they themselves experienced what Ariel's Bible school is all about. This was the case with Dr. Paul Miles, who spent years as a missionary to Ukraine and has served as the Executive Director of Grace Abroad Ministries and a charter fellow of the International Society for Biblical Hermeneutics before finally coming to the Shoshanah Campus. This year marks his debut as a teacher, and he brings a wealth of experience to the classroom.

Dr. Paul Miles and his wife Lena



The Miles family enjoying dinner at the lakeside pavillion



Midnight over Trout Pond

Dr. Paul and Lena Miles with Mia Melville, 2023

Betsey Trueblood leads the youth in a song.

Worship led by Sharon Gabizon

The dining hall before furniture was put in

Ariel Ministries has been a blessing to me for several years, and last summer I finally had the opportunity to take my family to the ministry's Bible school at the Shoshanah Campus. I have come to expect only the highest quality teaching from Ariel—and WOW!—this experience even exceeded my expectations!

Shoshanah has a way of bringing people together with a shared passion for the study of God's Word. I was blessed to meet the other students, many of whom come from foreign countries. It was fascinating to hear their stories about how they came to believe in Yeshua and where their journeys have taken them.

The campus is tucked away in the Adirondack Mountains, which is great for nature lovers. This was my first time in upstate New York, so in my downtime, I got to mosey through the woods and look at new wildlife.

The facilities are great. There are a variety of housing options, and the food may be better than at any camp that I have ever been to. Everything is clean! The staff are incredibly friendly and will stop to introduce themselves to any new faces they see.

Above all else is the teaching. This is not your average summer camp but a campus with intensive Bible training. Arnold Fruchtenbaum, Mottel Baleston, and Robert Morris were teaching the week that we were there. These are top-notch teachers. The information that they gave us was incredible. Arnold taught on Daniel and the life of Yeshua. That was awesome! I took several pages of notes and have referred back to the materials several times throughout the year when teaching and writing on a variety of topics. Mottel's course on the Holocaust brought to light several worldview issues that I am integrating into my doctoral research on some current political topics. Robert's teaching on rabbinic and Messianic views of Messianic prophecies has come up in some conversations I've had since last summer. For me, Shoshanah turned out to be more than just a fun way to spend a summer week with my family. It has been an educational experience that has impacted my ministry throughout the year.

The teachers I sat under have set a high standard, and I look forward to joining the ranks of Shoshanah teachers this summer as I teach through Ezra and Nehemiah. We will see God's love for and preservation of His chosen nation. We will dispel several false ideas such as the myth of the so-called "lost tribes" of Israel, and we will study some archaeological materials from the Achaemenid Empire. If you like biblical history, you will love Shoshanah 2024!

Joe Azevedo

Campus Supervisor: A Forty-Year Connection

It was in the late 1980s when I spent some time at the Shoshanah Campus. After meeting Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum around that time, he offered our local church the use of the campus, then known as Camp Shoshanah, for a men's retreat. We took him up on the offer and held retreats for the next two years. That experience left a lasting impression on me. From the late 1980s onward, my wife, Cindy, and I continued to learn all we could from a Messianic Jewish perspective under Dr. Fruchtenbaum. We were relatively new believers at the time, and I am grateful that we were introduced to Ariel Ministries early in our walk with the Lord. Dr. Fruchtenbaum's teaching and discipleship helped us form a solid foundation for growing in our relationship with God. We began to understand His plan for His chosen people, the future for mankind,

Left: Gary and Missy Demers managed the campus for over two decades before passing the leadership to Joe Azevedo.

Joe Azevedo creating a nice fire for a cookout.

and much more. As we grew, we started using Ariel Ministries' materials to teach others at our local church. In this way, we stayed connected to the ministry and read every book, manuscript, and publication from cover to cover.

One day, while reading Ariel's prayer guide, I noticed a prayer request for the Lord to provide a new campus supervisor because Gary Demers, the current supervisor, was looking to retire. This news caused me to remember the time I had spent at camp over thirty years earlier. Cindy and I believed this would be a great opportunity to serve the Lord, particularly in a Jewish-focused ministry that we were already familiar with. After much prayer, a job interview, and an offer from Ariel Ministries, we took the position. Who would have guessed that after over thirty years of studying under a world-class scholar, he would one day become my boss? God works in mysterious ways.

It has been a blessing and a privilege to serve God's people, both Jewish and Gentile, here in the beautiful Adirondack Mountains of upstate New York. Every year, people from all over the world come here to learn God's Word from a Messianic Jewish perspective. That fact makes our work eternally worthwhile.

Fifty Years of Impact: An Anthology

We received a few shorter—but oh so sweet—testimonies regarding the impact Ariel's Bible study program at the Shoshanah Campus has had in people's lives. Again, some of the attendees went on to serve in full-time ministry, while others simply developed a deeper understanding of God's Word that ultimately led them to have a more fulfilling spiritual life. Here are their stories.

Sharon Gabizon with her daughter Eva (left) and daughter-in-law Hannah

The Gabizons with Dr. Fruchtenbaum

Pre-dining-hall days: Shabbat worship

Sharon and friend checking out the new dining hall

Where do I start when recounting the over twenty-seven years of great memories and times of spiritual growth I had during those many summers at Camp Shoshanah? It was back in 1991 when I was first told about the camp by a cousin who had attended the previous year. I packed up for three weeks with my four kids, aged ten to two years old. Following a hand-drawn map that would bring me into the woods of the Adirondacks, with no GPS yet available, I trusted. Even after seeing the very small cabin, I trusted. There was no carpet in our cabin, no Gyprock on the walls, no dresser in the room, and no bathroom up on our side of the cabins, which meant that we always needed to go down to the other side of the road to get cleaned up.

What kept me there year after year? The answer is simple: it was the teaching, the fellowship, the encouragement, and the continued relationships even when summer camp was over. Would I ever exchange these times for better accommodations—maybe a nearby hotel? Not ever.

The “Life of Messiah from a Messianic Jewish Perspective” course was something that I greatly needed to secure my Jewish identity and help me overcome some of the challenges faced with rejection from family and friends. The Word of God was taken seriously, but so were the many other areas of camp life such as worship, the children’s program, Messianic dance, and the Shabbat meals every Friday evening.

The Lord has used this camp in a mighty way, and we were very privileged to live so close to its location. May this area be used during the tribulation for the hiding out of the saints, and may God’s glory be further magnified through it in the days ahead.

Happy Birthday, Camp Shoshanah!

Sharon Gabizon, Ariel Canada

The young Seth Postell between his parents

I had the privilege of attending Camp Shoshanah once, nearly forty years ago. I was still a student at Moody Bible Institute. I remember not only how riveted I was by the lessons at camp but also what a tremendous impact Dr. Fruchtenbaum's teachings had upon my father (may his memory be blessed) and my mother. This camp represents the very finest of Messianic Jewish scholarship and a passion to promote the careful and avid reading of God's Word among God's people. I am so grateful for the legacy and the challenge Camp Shoshanah has given to so many disciples who have learned to read the Scriptures with a sensitivity to its Jewish context and who are now teaching others to do the same!

Dr. Seth Postell, One for Israel and Israel College of the Bible

Some of my fondest memories in life are of Camp Shoshanah. I had long been praying and dreaming of going to camp. The opportunity finally came when I won the Ariel New Zealand Camp Shoshanah Scholarship in 2013.

It was my first trip to the United States, and I left New Zealand feeling excited. After thirty-two hours of travel, I arrived at camp. When I drove through the entrance that I had seen so many times in photos on the Ariel website, I rejoiced and praised God. It was the first year that the new dining hall was being used. We stayed in the old men's dorm and slept on bunk beds, which reminded me of my army days.

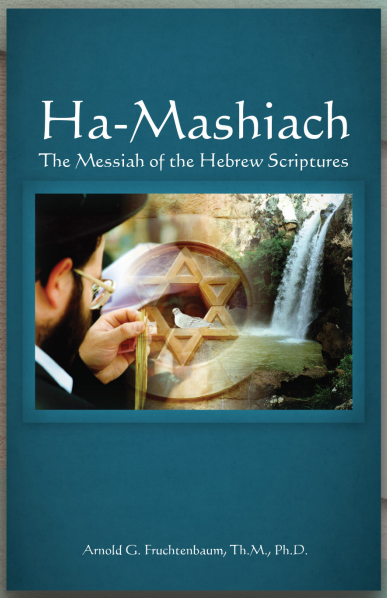
The lectures at camp are, in my opinion, the best Bible teaching that one can receive. Removed from everyday life, with nothing else to concentrate on but study and fellowship, the time of digging deep into God's Word is fruitful and rewarding. I also recall many instances when my fellow students and I would sit down at lunch, then promptly get up to join the dinner queue because we had chatted the afternoon away. I have learned just as much from these conversations with fellow campers as from the lectures.

It is such a joy meeting like-minded believers from all over the world at camp. It is perhaps the closest experience to the Messianic kingdom on this side of the second coming.

Johan Jansen van Vuuren, Ariel New Zealand

Johan between Beth Fearnley and Omri Jaakobovich

Two Kiwis who were sponsored by Ariel New Zealand to attend Ariel's School of Messianic Jewish Studies



Many Israelis in the body of Messiah come to faith outside of Israel and then return to the land with this great discovery that Yeshua is the promised Messiah of Israel. Of course, this is not a message many in Israel are susceptible to. There are so many obstacles for any Jew to come to faith, but even more so for the Israeli who joins a minority in Israel that is mostly misunderstood. Such was my personal experience.

I came to faith in 2001 in New York, and that very same summer I was lucky enough to attend Camp Shoshanah. For me, the study program was a great opportunity to get a strong foundation and grow deeper roots, get many questions answered, and gain lifelong friends who are very much part of my walk up until now, some twenty-three years later.

I remember that even when I was still in New York, family members sent "missionaries for Judaism" to try and deflate my faith. In those days, I had to answer many objections, and Dr. Fruchtenbaum's books always provided a clear and simple explanation for things that at first seemed very confusing. "I just love Arnold," I would blurt out in those moments.

I got to attend Camp Shoshanah for six years and repeat the "Life of Messiah" course every time, which was so valuable to my understanding of the Gospels.

Big blessings came, especially through volunteering and ministry. As an Israeli believer in the United States, I would often be asked to translate things from English into Hebrew. I had the privilege of taking a small part in the translation of Dr. Fruchtenbaum's book *Messianic Christology* into Hebrew—except this time, I couldn't translate quotations from Hebrew sources back into Hebrew but had to look them up in the original Hebrew language. Researching Jewish writings for the purpose of this project was very beneficial to me and helped me to better understand Judaism.

Shirley, Israel

Shirley

Camp Shoshanah was foundational in the way that I interpret Scripture. It made me fall in love with the Bible and see just how much information can be pulled out of a single verse, word, and cultural context. I was seventeen when I first attended. Now I am thirty-two and working as a hospital chaplain resident. I am also a chaplain candidate for the United States Air Force. In December 2023, I completed my MDiv. A month later, I was ordained. Camp Shoshanah is without a doubt the main motivational piece—outside of the Holy Spirit—that drove me to go into full-time ministry. My prayer and hope is that the program continues to do so for the next generation of students.

Bernardo Rozewicz, Hawaii

Bernardo Rozewicz (middle) with friends

It has been a privilege for me and for my wife, Rita, to represent Ariel Ministries in Hungary. If I may take away the punchline, this work began at Camp Shoshanah.

I started reading books by Dr. Fruchtenbaum in 1990, and since then, our interest in systematic Bible teaching has been constantly growing. In 1997, Rita received a scholarship to New York for her doctoral research. While she visited many different churches, she discovered that Dr. Fruchtenbaum was going to teach a full-week course about the life of the Messiah. Being already very familiar with his name, Rita called me immediately and told me the good news. It was by God's grace that my visit to New York happened exactly in time for the week of Dr. Fruchtenbaum's teaching. While our church in Hungary held a conference with more than 10,000 attendees and was experimenting with the "new wave movement," we were sitting in New York with no more than twenty other students, benefiting from the best Bible study that we had ever had. How was this possible? That was my question.

We got to know Dr. Fruchtenbaum personally during this week of study, and he invited us to Camp Shoshanah in 1998. That summer, we learned more about the Word of God than we ever had in the ten years prior. So, when we returned to Hungary, we decided to leave our church and the charismatic movement. Before this serious decision, we read Dr. Fruchtenbaum's teaching about the Toronto phenomenon and the true face of the "third wave movement." We wanted to be sure not to make another mistake. We found our new church through a connection at Camp Shoshanah with the gracious help of the late Dan Rigney. He gave us the contact information for an American church that had branches in Hungary too.

In 2010, we had the privilege of participating in Dr. Fruchtenbaum's Israel tour. This gave us the last inspiration to return to Camp Shoshanah, and in 2015, we completed the five-year program. These years of study prepared us for our ministry in Hungary. We soon opened the Ariel Hungary branch. The time at camp also allowed us to make friends and become part of a precious Messianic family of international believers from Hawaii to Japan and from Israel to India.

After many years of leading the branch in Hungary and teaching Ariel's materials, I am more convinced than ever that to truly understand the Bible, one must understand it in its Jewish context.

Ivan and Rita Nagy, Ariel Hungary

In the foreground: Rita and Ivan Nagy

Nagys receiving their five-year certificate

The Nagys with friends and Mottel Baleston

Ivan Nagy, a jazz pianist, performing with his wife

The Nagys with their daughter Noemi and another student from Hungary

Our story began before David and I even met. Dr. Fruchtenbaum's *The Footsteps of the Messiah* profoundly shaped the way that David understood the Scriptures and the world, and he began teaching the Bible from a Messianic Jewish perspective. I came to one of these studies, and for the first time in my life, I heard a Jewish perspective on Genesis. I had grown up in a Bible-believing church but had never before heard the Scriptures taught in this way. It was here that I fell in love with the Scriptures and the Bible teacher, who is now my husband. Thank you, Arnold!

Shortly after we got married, David and I were traveling in Israel and met a South African couple, Jaco and Veronica Scholtz, who "so happened" to live in the same town as David's dad and attended the same church. Furthermore, they had spent time at Camp Shoshanah. When we met them again several years later on a visit to South Africa in 2013, Jaco and Veronica convinced us that we needed to attend camp that summer. Not wasting any time, we registered, made plans, and committed to attend the six weeks that same summer.

At camp, we spent time with Michael and Hannah Gabizon, who listened to our hearts for Jewish ministry and, in their wisdom, encouraged David to pursue the Jewish Studies program at Moody Bible Institute. It "so happened" that during the same week, Dr. Rydelnik, the head of that very program, came to visit friends at camp. David met with him for only a few minutes, which decided our future.

David applied to Moody and, in faith, moved us to Chicagoland. At that time, our family had grown to three kids with the fourth one on the way. By God's grace, David was accepted. During our time in Chicago and at Moody Bible Institute, it "so happened" that we were introduced to Levi Hazen and Life in Messiah, with whom we now serve full time as field staff in South Florida—a place with the third largest Jewish population in the world.

Throughout our lives and marriage, the Lord has used Ariel Ministries and its school at the Shoshanah Campus to pave the way for us into ministry. Dr. Fruchtenbaum's books and manuscripts are still the foundation that we use in our understanding and teaching of Scripture. We are so excited for the opportunity to come back to camp this summer and share our gifts and hearts for the work that the Lord has called us to and to see what the Lord would have "so happen" next.

Betsie and David Barker, Life in Messiah

Messianic dancing during worship time

A time to relax

Shabbat dances

Between classes

The Lord had been calling me for years, but my youthful aspirations kept me away from Him. In 1985, Yeshua finally got ahold of me through tragic circumstances. Through my pain and sorrow, I felt a strong hunger and thirst for His Word. It was unquenchable. So, I began to study the Scriptures. That was the beginning of my journey.

I was attending a small Bible college in Los Angeles, and through divine providence, I met a young Messianic believer while attending a study in West Covina. Eric and I became instant friends. Over the years, as we grew in the Lord, Eric set up a trust fund for Jewish evangelism. By this time, I was living in Albuquerque, but my friend appointed me as his administrator of that trust fund. This gave me insight, and I was able to obtain valuable experience working with Messianic Jews.

Again, by divine providence, Eric discovered that he had a relative in Montreal, Canada, Jacques Isaac Gabizon, who was the Messianic pastor/rabbi of Congregation Beth Ariel. We contacted Jacques Isaac with questions regarding Jewish evangelism and quickly came under his mentorship and guidance.

Through the years, I continued studying God's Word. As time passed, one thing led to another, and I was blessed to have the opportunity to attend classes at Camp Shoshanah for the first time in 2011. It felt like I had received a divine revelation. It was at camp that all my years of studying, to that point, fell into place. I came full circle in my understanding of the Scriptures. Even though I already had a deep love for Israel and had already started on Messianic studies, my knowledge and understanding were enhanced. I needed the Jewish perspective that I received from Dr. Fruchtenbaum.

My enlightenment at Camp Shoshanah was amazing, particularly when I learned the great significance of the Abrahamic Covenant. For me, understanding this covenant was essential to grasping a deeper comprehension of the past, present, and future of the nation of Israel and the Gentiles. It also made me perceive the prophetic Scriptures more clearly.

I then became part of Ariel Ministries as a field representative in the Southwest, which includes parts of Mexico. I began teaching the Word of God from the Messianic Jewish perspective, which I believe has benefited many in my part of the world. For several years, I had the opportunity to present Dr. Fruchtenbaum's teachings on "The Life of Messiah" to many men in a classroom setting, Monday through Friday. His teachings thereafter opened doors to other levels of society. People in Mexico and the southwest of the United States are discovering their Jewish roots. They typically embrace their Jewish roots, but in many cases, they are choosing to convert to Rabbinical Judaism. Even with some form of a Christian background, they are willing to adapt to Judaism. In my hometown of El Paso, Texas, a Jewish rabbi is helping them to convert. I actually met a pastor who left the faith to convert to Judaism under the rabbi's guidance. Thus, our objective is to bring as many as we can back to the Word of God while embracing their Jewish roots.

I can truly say that knowing Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum, attending Camp Shoshanah, and studying Ariel's publications have been a godsend in my life.

Roberto Anchondo,
Ariel Ministries' Field Representative
in New Mexico and Mexico

Roberto Anchondo

Shoshanah Vision@50

By Dr. Tim M. Sigler

One of the most important things that Dr. Fruchtenbaum has asked me to steward for the coming generation is the legacy of the Shoshanah Campus. It is such a privilege to walk around the property with him and hear about what God has done in the past as we dream about what He might do in the future. What should the Shoshanah Campus become? How can our founder's vision be honored in the years ahead? Dr. Fruchtenbaum knows firsthand how the camp experience, away from the normal responsibilities of life and focused on intensive Bible teaching from a Messianic Jewish perspective, can be so formative.

Some activities make money and others cost money. Camps are rarely able to pay for their own program costs. Similar to Sunday School programs or evangelistic outreaches, the participants are the project and their discipleship is the ministry. Camp Shoshanah was founded in 1974, three years prior to the establishment of Ariel Ministries in 1977. Dr. Fruchtenbaum has often reminded inquirers that Ariel Ministries exists to support the efforts of our summer program. The good ministry that takes place in the lives of those who come to receive this unique curriculum of intensive Bible teaching from a Messianic Jewish perspective has proven itself year after year.

Numerous individuals who are in full-time Jewish ministry today received their early discipleship training at Camp Shoshanah. Current Ariel board member Gary Derechinsky, a Jewish believer who has served in Messianic ministry for decades, wrote about how the camp affected him as a young person back in 1975, the second year of its history: "The word that

A couple from Australia receiving their five-year certificate

Three of the best Messianic teachers

preeminently comes to mind is 'discipleship.' But discipleship of a particular kind. A kind that is focused on meeting the 'needs' of believers of a Jewish background and those either committed to or desirous of becoming involved in ministry among the Jewish people."

As word began to circulate among our Messianic friends while I was onboarding with Dr. Fruchtenbaum, I can't tell you how many wonderful believers informed me and Bernice about how Camp Shoshanah impacted their lives. One Jewish believer friend whom we have known for years shared, "I was baptized in Trout Pond!" Another well-known Jewish ministry leader testified to the effect, "I was so new to the faith and biblically illiterate when I went to learn at Camp Shoshanah. But one summer there made a big difference." This tradition continues today.

A young Jewish man exploring the gospel spent last summer at camp, and he told me at the end of the season, "I think I need to come again next summer." Thankfully, he has stayed in touch with many of those who continued to invest in his life throughout the year. You may have your own Shoshanah stories, and they all remind us of the great potential that continues to motivate us to go, give, gather, and grow. So how should we understand the future potential of this wonderful site that God has used so greatly over the last fifty years? What might He be pleased to continue to accom-

Dr. Fruchtenbaum reciting the blessing over the bread

plish for His glory through the Shoshanah Campus?

A Recruitment Center for Reaching the Next Generation

The vision of those who donated these grounds, who have crafted the curriculum, and who have built increasingly beautiful facilities was never for their own benefit—they always had the next generation in mind. Over the last month, I have had two young Jewish men ask me to mentor them for ministry. I immediately recommended that they spend their summer at our Shoshanah Campus. There's no similar scenario where we can have so much intense time together hearing the faithful teaching of God's Word, discussing the importance of sound doctrine, engaging in service alongside mature believers, and seeing God at work in the lives of others who are at various stages of response to the good news of Yeshua.

Our campers and students often engage with our field representatives and learn about opportunities on the front lines of ministry. They are inspired by real-life ministry reports. They connect with our Ariel staff, learn about how they can be personally involved in Jewish evangelism and discipleship, and develop friendships that have grown into partnerships and co-laboring relationships. Before you know it, some of these become Ariel Ministries representatives themselves. They have been recruited for the ministry that God has prepared for them from the beginning.

In the years to come, I would like to see an increase in our scholarships for young Jewish believers who are willing to participate in the Shoshanah experience. By the generosity of God's people, we can recruit more workers to share in the harvest of the remnant of Israel. I want to encourage our branch leaders to each be recruiting their own replacements, to mentor these recruits in sound doctrine and ministry experience, and to be able to sponsor them for a

Hiking in the Adirondacks

The next generation

Explaining the Jewish prayer shawl

Young students presenting what they have learned

Dr. Richard Hill teaching in 2023

full summer at camp. Could a future Fruchtenbaum-like young person be among our next group of campers? I pray that it will be so!

A Training Center for Producing Discerning Disciples

The Lord has entrusted Ariel Ministries with an amazing resource where we can invite people to come and get grounded in the faith quickly. Our intensive Bible study classes are offered five hours a day. Everything at the Shoshanah Campus is geared around our founder's intense Bible teaching curriculum. Over the years, he has recruited gifted Messianic leaders to join the team and teach the Bible from a Messianic Jewish perspective. Dr. Fruchtenbaum has asked that I use my connections to continue this tradition, and I have already begun networking with many well-trained colleagues to this end. In addition to our faithful crew of instructors that you have come to know and love, you will see some new faces teaching the same faithful truths. New technology, updated notes, helpful resources, and even new books in the Shmata Shop will be added to the Ariel Ministries resources. We want to continue producing discerning disciples who are well resourced with everything they need to take these beautiful truths of Scripture and teach them to others as the Lord gives them opportunities in their own communities.

The Shoshanah experience also provides a unique opportunity for participants to stretch out conversations over shared meals, afternoon walks and hikes, trips to town or nearby attractions, and weekend excursions. It is this slow-paced, informal time spent that is often the seedbed for trusted relationships. I'm reminded of how Yeshua also walked on long journeys with His disciples and sat with them at meals. Dr. Fruchtenbaum often invites small groups to join his trips to the nearby town of Essex, where his wife, Mary Ann, grew up and her father pastored. He has led excursions to Lake Champlain and Lake Placid, Willsboro's Turtle Island Cafe, the Iceburgh Creamery in Plattsburgh, Whiteface Mountain, High Falls Gorge, Ausable Chasm, and the list goes on and on. Whether on the campus itself or during these extracurricular expeditions, gospel conversations are taking place, theology is being modeled and transferred, discipleship is happening, and believers are learning to be discerning followers of the Lord.

As our founder has modeled for us, we can continue these traditions into the future and even create new ones. We could expand the use of our facilities outside of our eight-week camp season to include fall-colors Bible conferences, ski camps in the winter, Messianic retreats for Israeli soldiers, and seminars

for our colleagues in other Jewish ministries. We can collaborate to train the next generation to be equally and increasingly discerning in these confusing times of spiritual delusion. We have so many resources in the over thirty-five volumes and counting written by our founder, and we want to share them!

A Command Center for Equipping Ariel Team Members

Our global team of representatives, ambassadors for Messiah in over ten countries and expanding, is often among those who come to learn, serve, and teach during the summer program. During our first summer at camp last year, we observed as our Liberia branch leaders, Pastor Wion Wleh and his wife Shirley, received their Shoshanah certificate of completion after five years of training in the complete curriculum. Throughout the next months, we watched with joy how the Lord opened doors for them to put that training immediately into action as they taught God's Word in Liberia from a Messianic Jewish perspective. They reported and shared photos of their own students completing courses in Bible prophecy from the books of Daniel and Revelation, learning about God's covenant promises to Israel and ongoing plans to bring salvation through Messiah to our Jewish people.

The equipping of our team members is not only accomplished through the official curriculum. We are able to network among our branches, learn from one another's ministry successes and failures, share in each other's burdens and opportunities, and strategize for gospel effectiveness. We can collaborate in the dining hall, confer around the campfire, and contemplate in our cabins about how we can be more effective on the field for God's glory. Being together as a team allows us to provide critical training for those on the front lines of ministry. Not all of our global representatives come from a traditional ministry background. Yes, some have been congregational leaders and pastors, but others have had their careers in the business world or in the trades. Some need training in how to teach, how to disciple others, how to order and distribute Ariel publications, how to conduct the business side of ministry, and how to file required government paperwork. In a real sense, camp becomes a command center.

I would like to see all future Ariel representatives have their initial onboarding experience with the ministry at the Shoshanah Campus. Meeting at this amazing place allows us to share best practices, update our workers on Ariel procedures,

Ariel India and Ariel Liberia

conduct strategy sessions, and do many more things that we simply would not be able to accomplish as well over phone calls and Zoom meetings. The face-to-face opportunity for conversations that might happen over the course of days and weeks is a blessing that many ministries simply do not have, but the Lord has blessed us at Ariel Ministries with this valuable resource—and we intend to use it for His glory!

A Retreat Center for Encouraging Faithful Servants

In addition to the ministry work that is accomplished and anticipated at camp, we cannot overlook the fact that, in the end, we find ourselves spiritually refreshed by being there. It really is an encouragement for God's faithful servants to be reminded that we are not alone in our struggles. As we fellowship with other believers from around the world, we realize how similar our struggles are, though our cultures may be very different. The nature of the believer's existence in this fallen world is that we are in a constant state of spiritual warfare. The enemy of our souls is on the prowl, seeking whom he may devour (1 Pet. 5:8). Therefore, we want to put on the whole armor of God to stand against the schemes of the devil (Eph. 6:11-13). The weapons of our warfare are not fleshly, but we seek to take every thought captive to our Messiah (2 Cor. 10:3-5). As we look back over past relationships with those who are now with the Lord, some for whom various buildings are named on campus, we realize that we have a cloud of faithful witnesses who have gone on before us (Heb. 12:1-2) and have fought the good fight of faith (1 Tim. 6:12; 2 Tim. 4:7-8). At camp, we meet exemplary believers who are striving with us to be faithful to our Messiah, who love Him and love us, who want our very best, and who encourage our faith.

We receive countless notes about how the Lord has encouraged His faithful servants in this special place. Testimony after testimony is available about the friendships and encouragement that happened or began at Camp Shoshanah. The Father of mercies is the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God (2 Cor. 1:3-4). He often uses other believers to be His hands and feet in showing this comfort and encouragement. Yeshua instructed His disciples, "In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world" (Jn. 16:33). Camp is a place where we are often reminded of how the Lord has already overcome the struggles of this world, and we find ourselves encouraged.

As we look to the future, how can we be even more effective with the saving message of the gospel that is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek (Rom. 1:16)? How can we ground both Jewish and Gentile believers in the faith that was once delivered to the saints (Jude 1:3)? How can we promote a dispensational approach to the Bible based on literal, historical, and grammatical interpretation, rightly dividing the Word of truth (2 Tim. 2:15)? How can we train up yet another generation who will promote intense Bible teaching from a Messianic Jewish perspective *l'dor v'dor* (Ps. 146:10)? Perhaps we can do these things best by partnering together. May we count on you to join us with a special fiftieth anniversary contribution to the Lord's work at the Shoshanah Campus? There's no place quite like it!

A Call to Action

In honor of the Jubilee, we invite your participation in a matching gift that will allow us to complete the lower level of our dining hall building at the Shoshanah Campus.

Our goal, in keeping with the 50th anniversary theme, is to raise $500,000. The Lord has already raised up five individuals to provide the basis for a matching gift of $250,000, and now our constituents are invited to participate in matching the $250,000. Every bit helps! This will provide a beautiful conclusion to a multi-use space that will further our mission of Jewish evangelism and discipleship as well as Bible teaching from a Messianic Jewish perspective. The completion of this project will also honor the legacy of Dr. Fruchtenbaum's 50 years of faithful ministry at this special place that is near and dear to his heart.

Fruchtenbaum Library and Lounge

Two similar bunk areas for student retreats

Recreation and fellowship area

Multipurpose space with platform and seating for 150

Useable space for every season

✡ Invest in Messianic discipleship

✡ Train the discerning believers

✡ Equip Ariel team members

✡ Learn in the Fruchtenbaum Library

If you would like to contribute to the base for the match, please contact our home office at

210.344.7707

or give online at

ariel.org/match.

ARIEL MINISTRIES
11926 Radium Street
San Antonio, Texas 78216-2713
Phone: 210-344-7707
P.O. Box 792507
San Antonio, Texas 78279-2507
Email: homeoffice@ariel.org
www.ariel.org

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